Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, September 30, 2002
Volume 38—Number 39
Pages 1593–1637

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Cabinet meeting—1610
Congressional leaders, meeting—1625
Corporate Fraud Conference—1626
National Republican Senatorial Committee dinner—1620
NCAA spring championship teams—1612
New Jersey
Community in Trenton—1595
Luncheon for Senatorial candidate Doug Forrester in Trenton—1601
Radio address—1593
Senatorial candidate John R. Thune, reception—1614
Texas, reception for Senatorial candidate John Cornyn in Houston—1628

Communications to Congress

Cote d'Ivoire, letter on the use of U.S. military forces—1634
Plan Colombia, message transmitting report—1610
UNITA, national emergency
Message on continuation—1609
Message transmitting report—1609

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters
Cabinet Room—1610

Interviews With the News Media—Continued

Oval Office—1618

Joint Statements

President George W. Bush and President Askar Akayev on the Relationship Between the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic—1606
President George W. Bush and the Presidents of the Central African States—1608

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Colombia, President Uribe—1618
Kyrgyzstan, President Akayev—1606

Notices

Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA—1608

Proclamations

Family Day—1595
Minority Enterprise Development Week—1593

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1637
Checklist of White House press releases—1636
Digest of other White House announcements—1635
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1636

Editor's Note: The President was in Phoenix, AZ, on September 27, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Proclamation 7596—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2002

September 20, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Entrepreneurs help make America strong and are essential to our economic success. Their talent, skill, and hard work have helped sustain our Nation since its founding; and their disciplined work ethic and capacity for innovation reflect the true character of our country. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we celebrate our more than 3 million minority-owned businesses, and we recognize the important contributions they make to the United States of America.

To promote prosperity in our Nation, Government must help create an environment where innovative, hardworking, and determined individuals have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in our economy. Last year's tax relief initiative, including the repeal of the "Death Tax," was an important part of developing an enhanced business climate in America. And this year, I signed two pieces of legislation into law that will promote growth. The Trade Act of 2002 gives me new Trade Promotion Authority that will help boost our economy, create new jobs, and provide America with the opportunity to participate in new and emerging international markets. And the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 will improve business practices by creating tough corporate responsibility laws that will help expose and punish acts of corruption and protect small investors. These vital initiatives will benefit minority business enterprises and help these important job creators compete fully and fairly in the global economy.

My Administration, through the efforts of the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA), is committed to promoting the growth of minority businesses. In FY 2001, the MBDA assisted minority businesses in gaining access to $1.6 billion in contracts. In addition, last year the SBA offered assistance to more than 1 million small business owners, and continues to play a major role in our Nation's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans available to Americans. The important efforts of the MBDA and SBA help businesses build entrepreneurial opportunity for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 22 through September 28, 2002, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities, and to recognize the countless contributions of our Nation's minority enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

The President's Radio Address

September 21, 2002

The President. Good morning. In the past week, U.S. officials in Pakistan took custody

of five Al Qaida members, including a key strategist for the September the 11th attacks. And here in America, Federal agents arrested six men suspected of having trained at Al Qaida terrorist camps in Afghanistan.

These arrests remind us that we are engaged in a new kind of war, fought on many fronts, including the homefront. The arrests also remind us that the enemy is still at large, threatening our safety and security. Defeating terrorism requires constant vigilance and preparation by our citizens and by our Government.

One way for the Congress to protect the American people is to pass legislation creating a new Department of Homeland Security. This new Department must have a single, overriding responsibility, to coordinate our homeland defense efforts, which are now scattered across the Government.

After less than a week of debate, the House of Representatives passed a good bill, a bill that gives me the flexibility to confront emerging threats quickly and effectively. Yet after 3 weeks of debate, the Senate has still not passed a bill I can sign. The legislation the Senate is debating is deeply flawed. The Senate bill would force the new Department to fight against terror threats with one hand tied behind its back. The Department of Homeland Security must be able to move people and resources quickly, to respond to threats immediately without being forced to comply with a thick book of bureaucratic rules.

Yet the current Senate approach keeps in place a cumbersome process that can take 5 months to hire a needed employee and 18 months to fire someone who is not doing his job. In the war on terror, this is time we do not have.

Even worse, the Senate bill would weaken my existing authority to prohibit collective bargaining when national security is at stake. Every President since Jimmy Carter has had this very narrow authority throughout the Government, and I need this authority in the war on terror. As Democrat Senator Zell Miller said, "The daunting task of securing this country is almost incomprehensible. Let's not make it more difficult by tying this President's hands and the hands of every President who comes after him."

In an effort to break the logjam in the Senate, Senator Miller and Republican Senator Phil Gramm have taken the lead in crafting a bipartisan alternative to the current flawed Senate bill. I commend them and support their approach. Their proposal would provide the new Secretary of Homeland Security much of the flexibility he needs to move people and resources to meet new threats. It will protect every employee of the new Department against illegal discrimination and build a culture in which Federal employees know they are keeping their fellow citizens safe through their service to America.

I ask you to call your Senators and to urge them to vote for this bipartisan alternative. Senators Miller and Gramm, along with Senator Fred Thompson, have made great progress in putting the national interest ahead of partisan interest. I'm confident that every Senator, Republican and Democrat, wants to do what is best for America. Creating a new Department of Homeland Security will make America stronger and safer. It is time for the Senate to act.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:15 p.m. on September 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and suspected terrorists Sahim A. Alwan, Yahya A. Goba, Yasein A. Taher, and Shafal A. Mosed, who were arrested in Lackawanna, NY, on September 13, Faysal Galab, who was arrested in Lackawanna on September 14, and Mukhtar Ali Albakri, who had also been living in Lackawanna and whose arrest was announced on September 16. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7597—Family Day, 2002

September 20, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's character begins in the home, where children learn proper standards of conduct, principled values, and the importance of service. Families provide children the encouragement, support, and love they need to become confident, compassionate, and successful members of society. We must work together to promote and preserve the health and security of our families by upholding the timeless values that have sustained our society through history.

Recent events have reminded Americans of the blessings of family and friends, and of the importance of faith. As a Nation, we have a renewed dedication to our freedom, our country, and our principles. In homes, schools, places of worship, the workplace, and civic and social organizations, we must continue to encourage responsibility, compassion, and good citizenship.

Americans must also act to fight crime and drugs, and provide a safe and healthy environment for our children. We can begin by working to strengthen the bonds and improving communication between parents and children. Research done by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University has consistently shown that the more often children eat dinner with their parents, the less likely children are to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs. Naturally, parents should be the most prominent and active figures in their children's lives. By spending more family time together, parents can better engage with their children and encourage them to make the right choices.

The nurturing and development of our families require investment, focus, and commitment. Strong families make strong and drug-free communities. By taking time to develop positive and open relationships with their children, parents help fight the war on drugs and encourage positive choices. Across our land, citizens, schools, and civic institutions can assist families by helping to meet the needs of all those who live in our communities. As we work together to strengthen our families, we will build a Nation of hope and opportunity for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2002, as Family Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day by spending quality time with family members and engaging in other nurturing activities to strengthen the relationships between parents and children and help fight against substance abuse.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 23, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Remarks to the Community in Trenton, New Jersey

September 23, 2002

Thanks a lot for coming out this morning. It is my honor to be back in New Jersey. I want to thank you all for coming out. I want to thank the people of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard for your hospitality. I'm here to talk about how best to make America a stronger country, a safer country, and a better country for all of us.

There is a old bridge over the Delaware River that says, "Trenton makes; the world takes." It talks about the work ethic of the people of this part of our country. It talks about the creativity. It talks about the true strength of America. The true strength of America are our fellow citizens. The strength of our country is the people of America. And

I'm honored to be with such hard-working people.

Congress can help. Congress needs to work hard before they go home. Congress needs to get some things done, which means a Homeland Security Department, a budget that reflects our priorities. They've got to make sure they don't overspend your money. They've got to remember, everything they do must go to make sure America is a stronger and safer and better place.

I want to thank Brigadier General Glenn Rieth for opening up this hangar and for inviting me to this base. I want to thank all the Guard personnel who serve the United States of America. I want to thank you for your service. I want to thank you for your sacrifice.

I want to thank your Governor for being here today. I appreciate Governor McGreevey being at the steps of Air Force One. I'm thankful for his hospitality. I appreciate him coming to say hello, and I'm honored he's here today to hear this speech. Governor, thank you for coming.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation. Congressmen Ferguson, Saxton, and Smith from New Jersey, thank you all for being here. I want to thank Bob Prunetti, who is the Mercer County executive, for greeting me here as well. And I want to thank you all for coming.

Here's what's on my mind: I want our people to work here in America. Anytime somebody who wants to work can't find a job, it means we've got a problem in this country. And we will not rest until people can find work. A stronger America means a strong economy. A stronger country means that our good, hard-working Americans are able to put food on the table for their families.

Now, we're making progress. Listen, interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the best, hardest workers and smartest workers in the world. We've got the ingredients for growth. But what has taken place so far is not good enough for me, and I hope it's not good enough for the Congress. What's happening in the economy is not good enough for a stronger America, and Congress can help.

Listen, I come from the school of thought that says, if you've got an economic problem—and remember, for the first three quarters of my administration we were in negative growth. The stock market started to decline in March of 2000. Economic growth started to slow down in the summer of 2000. We were in recession in the first three quarters of 2001.

In order to make sure the country was stronger, I pulled this page out of the economic textbook, the page that says, "If you let people keep more of their own money, they're going to spend it on a good or a service. If they spend it on a good or a service, somebody will produce the good and service. And if somebody produces a good or service, some American is more likely to find work." The tax relief came right at the right time for economic growth and jobs.

And if Congress wants to help in job creation, they need to make the tax relief permanent. They need to make the tax relief permanent so our New Jersey small businesses and entrepreneurs can plan for the future. After all, most growth of new jobs comes from small businesses all across America.

Congress also must understand they've got to pass an energy bill. You see, an energy bill will be good for jobs. An energy bill will be good for national security. We need an energy bill that encourages consumption, encourages new technologies so our cars are cleaner, encourages new renewable energy sources, but at the same time encourages increase of supply here at home, so we're less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Congress needs to get some work done before they go home. And one of the most important things they can do is to pass an anti-terrorism insurance bill. See, we need an insurance bill to cover potential terrorist acts, so that hardhats in America can get back to work. And I want a bill on my desk that says we care more about the working people and less about the trial lawyers. We want a bill that puts the hardhats back to work, not enriches the trial lawyers here in America.

In order to make sure our country is stronger and our economy grows, Congress must be wise with your money. Notice I said "your money." When it comes time to budgeting and appropriations, which means

spending, sometimes in Washington they forget whose money they're talking about. You hear them talking about the Government's money. No, the money in Washington is not the Government's money. The money in Washington is your money, and we better be careful about how we spend your money. And if Congress overspends, it's going to be a problem for making America's economy continue to grow. And so my message to Congress is: Remember whose money you're spending.

Now, one of the problems we have is that anytime you're worried about spending, you set a budget. That's what you do. The Senate hasn't been able to do so. They don't have a budget, which means it's likely they're going to overspend. See, every idea in Washington is a good idea. Everybody's idea sounds good, except the price tag is generally in the billions. In order to make sure the country is stronger, we need fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC. We need to make sure that Congress does not overspend. Without a budget, they're likely to overspend.

They set deadlines on you when it comes to paying your IRS, paying your taxes. There ought to be a deadline on them in order to get a budget passed and to get bills passed.

Now, because they haven't been able to move, they're going to send to my desk soon what looks like what they call a temporary spending bill. And that temporary spending bill should not be an excuse for excessive Federal spending. The temporary spending bill ought to remember whose money they're spending. A temporary spending bill ought to be clean, so that we don't overspend as the economy is trying to continue to grow.

What we need in Washington is fiscal responsibility, fiscal sanity. We need to set priorities with your money. And the most important priority I have is to defend the homeland—is to defend the homeland from a bunch of killers who hate America.

It's very important for the schoolchildren here to listen to what I'm about to say. You're probably wondering why America is under attack. And you need to know why. We're under attack because we love freedom, is why we're under attack. And our enemy hates freedom. They hate, and we love. They hate the thought that this country is a country in which people from all walks of life can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. They hate the thought that we have honest and open discourse. They hate the thought that we're a beacon of liberty and freedom.

We differ from our enemy because we love. We not only love our freedoms and love our values; we love life, itself. In America, everybody matters; everybody counts; every human life is a life of dignity. And that's not the way our enemy thinks. Our enemy hates innocent life. They're willing to kill in the name of a great religion. And as long as we love freedom and love liberty and value every human life, they're going to try to hurt us. And so our most important job is to defend the freedom, defend the homeland—is to make sure what happened on September the 11th doesn't happen again. We must do everything we can, everything in our power, to keep America safe.

There are a lot of good people working hard to keep you safe. There are people at the Federal level and at the State level, a lot of fine folks here at the local level, doing everything we can to run down every lead. If we find any kind of hint, we're moving on it—all within the confines and all within the structure of the United States Constitution. We're chasing down every possible lead because we understand there's an enemy out there which hates America.

I asked the Congress to work with me to come up with a new Department of Homeland Security to make sure that not only can this administration function better but future administrations will be able to deal with the true threats we face as we get into the 21st century, a Homeland Security Department which takes over the 100 different agencies and brings them under one umbrella so that there's a single priority and a new culture, all aimed at dealing with the threats.

I mean, after all, on our border, we need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, are they leaving when they're supposed to be leaving America. Yet, when you look at the border, there are three different Federal agencies dealing with the border. There is Customs and INS and Border Patrol, and sometimes

they work together and sometimes they don't—they don't. They've got different work rules. They've got different customs. Sometimes they have different strategies. And that's not right.

So I asked Congress to give me the flexibility necessary to be able to deal with the true threats of the 21st century by being able to move the right people to the right place at the right time, so we can better assure America we're doing everything possible. The House responded, but the Senate is more interested in special interests in Washington and not interested in the security of the American people. I will not accept a Department of Homeland Security that does not allow this President and future Presidents to better keep the American people secure.

And people are working hard in Washington to get it right in Washington, both Republicans and Democrats. See, this isn't a partisan issue. This is an American issue. This is an issue which is vital to our future. It'll help us determine how secure we'll be.

Senator Gramm, a Republican, Senator Miller, a Democrat, are working hard to bring people together. And the Senate must listen to them. It's a good bill. It's a bill I can accept. It's a bill that will make America more secure. And anything less than that is a bill which I will not accept; it's a bill which I will not saddle this administration and future administrations with, allowing the United States Senate to micromanage the process. The enemy is too quick for that. We must be flexible. We must be strong. We must be ready to take the enemy on anywhere he decides to hit us, whether it's America or anywhere else in the globe.

But the best way to secure our homeland, the only sure way to make sure our children are free and our children's children are free is to hunt the killers down wherever they hide, is to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter how long it takes. See, we're talking about our freedom and our future. There's no cave deep enough, as far as I'm concerned, and there's no cave deep enough, as far as the United States military is concerned, either. I want you all to know, if you wear the uniform of our great country, I'm proud of you. I've got confidence in you. I believe that you can handle any mission.

No, it's a different kind of war than our Nation has seen in the past. One thing that's different is, oceans no longer keep us safe. The second thing is, in the old days, you could measure progress by looking at how many tanks the enemy had one day and how many he had the next day, whether or not his airplanes were flying or whether or not his ships were floating on the seas. It's a different kind of war. And America has begun to adjust its thinking about this kind of war.

See, this is the kind of war where the leaders of the enemy hide. They go into big cities or, as I mentioned, caves, and they send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of war we're having. It's not measured in equipment destroyed; it's going to be measured in people brought to justice. And we're making progress. I had made it clear to the world that either you're with us or you're with the enemy, and that doctrine still stands. And as a result of the hard work by our United States military and the militaries and law enforcement officers of other countries, we've arrested or brought to justice a couple thousand or more. Slowly but surely, we're finding them where we think they can hide.

We brought one of them in the other day. He thought he was going to be the 20th hijacker, or at least he was bragging that way. I don't know if he's bragging now. But see, he thought he was immune. He thought he was invisible. He thought he could hide from the long arm of justice. And like many—about the like number haven't been so lucky as the 20th hijacker. They met their fate.

We're getting them on the run, and we're keeping them on the run. They're going to be—as part of our doctrine, we're going to make sure that there's no place for them to alight, no place for them to hide. These are haters, and they're killers. And we owe it to the American people and we owe it to our friends and allies to pursue them, no matter where they try to hide.

And that's why I asked the Congress for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I firmly believe that any time we

commit our troops into harm's way, you deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. I also asked for a large increase because I wanted to send a clear signal to the rest of the world that we're in this for the long haul, that there is no calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a day we're going to quit, that by such and such a day we will all have grown weary; we're too tired; and therefore we're coming home.

That's not the way we think in America. See, we understand obligation and responsibility. We have a responsibility to our children to fight for freedom. We have a responsibility to our citizens to defend the homeland. And that only means—not only means dealing with real, immediate threats; it also means anticipating threats before they occur, before things happen. It means we've got to look out into the future and understand the new world in which we live and deal with threats before it's too late.

And that's why I went into the United Nations the other day. And I said to the United Nations, "We have a true threat that faces America, a threat that faces the world, and a threat which diminishes your capacity. And I'm talking about Iraq. That country has got a leader which has attacked two nations in the neighborhood; a leader who has killed thousands of people; a leader who is brutal"—see, remember, we believe every life matters and every life is precious—"a leader, if there is dissent, will kill the dissenter, a leader who told the United Nations and the world he would not develop weapons of mass destruction, and for 11 long years has stiffed the world."

He looked at the United Nations and said, "This is a paper tiger. Their resolutions mean nothing." For 11 years he has deceived and denied. For 11 years he's claimed he has had no weapons. And yet, we know he has.

So I went to the United Nations and said, "Either you can become the League of Nations, either you can become an organization which is nothing but a debating society, or you can be an organization which is robust enough and strong enough to help keep the peace. Your choice."

But I also told them that if they would not act, if they would not deal with this true threat we face in America—if they would not recognize that America is no longer protected by oceans and that this man is the man who would use weapons of mass destruction at the drop of a hat, a man who would be willing to team up with terrorist organizations with weapons of mass destruction to threaten America and our allies—if they wouldn't act, the United States will. We will not allow the world's worst leaders to threaten us with the world's worst weapons.

I want to see strong resolutions coming out of that U.N., a resolution which says the old ways of deceit are gone, a resolution which will hold this man to account, a resolution which will allow freedom-loving countries to disarm Saddam Hussein before he threatens his neighborhood, before he threatens freedom, before he threatens America, and before he threatens civilization. We owe it to our children, and we owe it to our grandchildren to keep this Nation strong and free.

And as we work to make America a stronger place and a safer place, we always must remember that we've got to work to make America a better place too—a better place. And that starts with making sure every single child in America gets a great education, make sure that every child—make sure that we focus on each child, every child. It says we expect and believe our children can learn to read and write and add and subtract. As a society, we will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations.

We believe every child can learn. Every child matters, and therefore we expect to be told whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if we find they're not, if we find there are certain children who aren't learning and the systems are just shuffling through as if they don't matter, we must challenge the status quo. Failure is unacceptable in America. Every child matters, and no child should be left behind in this great country.

A better America—a better America is one which makes sure that our health care systems are responsive to the patient and makes sure our health care systems, particularly for the elderly, are modern. We need prescription drug benefits for elderly Americans. The Medicare system must be reformed, must be

made to work so that we have a better tomorrow for all citizens in this country.

A better America is one that understands as we're helping people go from dependency to freedom, from welfare, we must help them find work. A better America understands that when people work, there is dignity in their lives.

A better America is America which understands the power of our faith-based institutions in our country. It's in our churches and synagogues and mosques that we find universal love and universal compassion.

You know what's really interesting about what's taking place in America is this: The enemy hit us, but out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because of the nature of our soul, the nature of our being.

On the one hand, I believe we can achieve peace. Oh, I know the kids hear all the war rhetoric and tough talk, and that's necessary to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're plenty tough, if you rouse this country, and we're not going to relent. But we're not going to relent because my desire is to achieve peace. I want there to be a peaceful world. I want children all across our globe to grow up in a peaceful society.

Oh, I know the hurdles are going to be high to achieving that peace. There's going to be some tough decisions to make, some tough action for some to take. But it's all aimed at making America safe and secure and peaceful, but other places around the world too. I believe this: I believe that if our country—and it will—remains strong and tough and we fight terror wherever terror exists, that we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East. We can achieve peace in South Asia. We can achieve peace. No, out of the evil done to America can come a peaceful world.

And at home, out of the evil done to our country can come some incredible good as well. We've got to understand, in America there are pockets of despair and hopelessness, places where people hurt because they're not sure if America is meant for them, places where people are addicted. And Government can help eradicate these pockets by handing out money. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when neighbor loves neighbor. That's done when this country hears the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, out of the evil done to America is coming some incredible good, because we've got citizens all across this land, whether they be a part of our faith-based institutions or charitable institutions, citizens all across this land who have heard the call that if you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to resist the evil done to America, love your neighbor; mentor a child; put your arm around an elderly citizen who is shut in and say, "I love you"; start a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop; go to your Boys and Girls Clubs; help somebody in need.

No, this country, this country has heard the call. This country is a country full of such incredibly decent and warmhearted and compassionate citizens that there's people all across New Jersey and all across America who, without one Government act, without Government law, are in fact trying to make the communities in which they live a more responsive and compassionate and loving place.

Today I met Bob and Chris Morgan, USA Freedom Corps greeters, who coordinate blood drives right here in New Jersey for the American Red Cross. Nobody told them they had to do that. There wasn't a law that said, "You will be a part of collecting blood." They decided to do it because they want to make America more able to address emergency and help people in need. Whether it's teaching a child to read, whether it's delivering food to the hungry or helping those who need housing, you can make a huge difference in the lives of our fellow Americans.

See, societies change one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. Everybody has worth, and everybody matters. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come a compassionate society. Now, this great country will show the world what we're made out of. This great country, by responding to the challenges we face, will leave behind a legacy of sacrifice, a legacy of compassion, a legacy of peace, a legacy of decency for future generations of people fortunate enough to be called an American.

There's no question in my mind—I hope you can tell, I'm an optimistic fellow about our future. I believe we can overcome any difficulty that's put in our path. I believe we can cross any hurdle, climb any mountain, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the earth, full of the most decent, hard-working, honorable citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. at the National Guard facility at Trenton-Mercer Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Army National Guard, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Gov. James E. McGreevey of New Jersey; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Senatorial Candidate Doug Forrester in Trenton

September 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Well, thank you, "Senator." I appreciate those kind words. [*Laughter*] I believe it's in New Jersey's interests—I believe it's in America's interests that Doug Forrester be the next United States Senator from this State.

And I want to thank you all for helping him become that Senator. I want to thank you for being here today. I want to thank those of you who are involved in grassroots politics. I want to thank you for what you have done and what you're going to do. I want to thank you for going to your coffee shops, your community centers, your churches, and your synagogues and your mosques to talk about a good man who has decided to serve the people of New Jersey.

I want to thank you for getting ready to stuff the envelopes and to dial the phones and to put up the signs and to turn out the vote for a good man, a man who didn't need to run for office, a man that had a nice, comfortable life. After all, he married well. [*Laughter*] He's got a fine family. He's a successful businessman. And yet, he decided to serve his State and his country, because he believes deeply in the future of the country. I like to put it this way: When you find a good one, you've got to back him. [*Laughter*] You've got a good one in Doug Forrester.

I'm honored to be standing beside a man who was an Eagle Scout as a youngster, who they tell me sold flags door to door. It makes him a patriot and an entrepreneur. [*Laughter*] I appreciate the fact that he moved to this State to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary. It's a man of faith, a man who is self-made, a man who has got his priorities straight, a man who will be a breath of fresh air for New Jersey in the United States Senate.

We both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] And it didn't take me long to figure that out, having met Andrea and her children. My wife sends her best. I thought about her today. Actually, I thought about her more than once, since I delivered her her coffee this morning. [*Laughter*] Good lesson for you guys out there. [*Laughter*] Just trying to set the example for others. [*Laughter*]

We met some fine folks who help the Red Cross here in New Jersey at Air Force One. And the lady said, she said, "You know, I'm a public school librarian, just like your wife." And I said, "Well, Laura was a public school librarian. When she married me, she wasn't interested in politics, didn't particularly care about politicians either." [*Laughter*] "And now she's First Lady of the United States, bringing great comfort to the people of this country." She sends her best to the Forresters. She looks forward to seeing Andrea when Doug wins.

I want to thank members of the New Jersey congressional delegation being here. I see Chris Smith and Frank LoBiondo. Are you here, Franky? There he is. Appreciate you for coming, Frank. Jim Saxton is here, I know. I appreciate you coming, Jimmy. Thanks for being here. I want to thank Mike Ferguson for coming as well. Thank you, Mike.

You've got two members—two folks here who are running to become Members of Congress: Scott Garrett, who's running in the

fifth—thank you for coming, Scott—Buster Soaries, my friend who's running in the twelfth. Thank you, Buster.

I know Donnie DiFrancesco is here. I appreciate you coming, Don. It's good to see you. Give your wife my best. I appreciate so very much the party chairman of the State of New Jersey, Joe Kyrillos. Joe, where are you? Thanks, Joe, Mr. Senator. I want to thank Bob Prunetti for coming back again a second day—second event in one day.

And finally, I want to thank the chairman of this campaign, a man who brought a lot of class to the Governor's office here in New Jersey, Tom Kean. Thank you, Tom, for being here.

I ended with Tom because this is where Doug cut his teeth in politics. See, he worked for the good Governor. He was a part of his budget office and then ran his—a director of pensions, ran the pension system as director of pensions, made sure that the people were taken care of. If you're interested in understanding his priorities, look at the job he did when he worked for this good man as the Governor.

See, he cares a lot more about people than politics. He's going to keep his commitments when he—he's the kind of fellow, when he says he's going to do something, that's what he's going to do. That's what you need from New Jersey. He's somebody who speaks plainly and just was running to get something done, as opposed to running just for the sake of holding the office. If he says he's going to protect seniors when it comes to Social Security, that's what he's going to do. He's going to work with me to modernize Medicare, to make sure our seniors have got prescription drug benefits.

He understands what I know, that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur and small business can grow. That's the role of Government. When we got up to Washington, DC, the country was headed into a recession. The market started correcting in March of 2000; that's when it peaked. And then the summer the economic growth started to slow. And so by the time the Vice President and I showed up in Washington, DC, we were in three-quarters of recession. And we had to do something about it. See, my attitude is, anytime anybody wants to find work can't find a job, we've got a problem in America. I want our people working.

So here's what I did—and Doug understands this; that's why I'm standing by his side. We took a page out of this textbook. It's a little different from what some of the other folks in Washington are trying to do. The page says that if you've got an economic slowdown, one way to help the economy recover is to let people keep their own money. We've got a lot of hard-working Americans, who, if you give them more of their own money, let them keep their own money, they're going to spend it on a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody will provide. And when somebody provides for that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

Now what's interesting about what happened in the tax relief plan is, thanks to a quirk in the Senate rules—it's one of these deals where Washington gives tax relief and then takes it away after 10 years. I must confess that's hard to explain in Crawford—[*laughter*]—and probably in the fire stations and police stations here in Trenton. It's hard to tell people who work hard for a living that you've got tax relief, but then because of a quirk in the rules, it goes away. Listen, we need a Senator up there who agrees with me that we've got make this tax relief permanent. We've got to provide relief for the working people.

And I need somebody up there to work with me to make sure that the Senate does not overspend. See, I'm going to stay focused on our economy, because I understand it's part of how we make sure America is a stronger place. But if the Senate and the Congress overspends, it will serve as a drag to any economic recovery. It's one thing to fund priorities, and we will do that. But you've got to understand something about Washington: Every idea is a brilliant idea. [*Laughter*] Everybody's program sounds like just a perfect program. And then when you add up all the perfect programs and all the good ideas, we're not talking millions; we're talking billions of dollars.

The second problem we have in Washington is, sometimes the spenders forget whose money they're spending. You'll hear,

we're going to spend—the Government is going to spend the Government money here, and the Government is going to spend the Government here. We're not spending the Government's money, folks. It's your money we're spending, and we need fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC.

We need to set priorities and fund those priorities. You know, the Senate doesn't even have a budget. It couldn't get a budget passed. If you don't have a budget, guess what happens? You have the tendency to overspend. If you don't have a budget, there's no discipline or fiscal restraint. And so for the sake of fiscal sanity, we need Doug Forrester in the United States Senate.

I say priorities—I say priorities. The most important priority we have today and tomorrow is to protect the homeland. That's the most important priority in America. It's a priority because there are people who hate America still on the loose, see. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate, and we love freedom. And we love the fact that people from all walks of life can worship freely in this country. That's what we love. We love the idea that people from all backgrounds can worship an almighty God the way he or she sees fit. The enemy hates that. They hate that idea.

We love the idea that people can debate and speak their mind and holler and whoop about politics. They hate it. They hate free thought and free speech. We love a free press. They hate it. See, they hate freedom, and we love freedom. And for so long as we love freedom, which will be forever as far as I'm concerned, they're going to try to hurt us again. And so our number one priority should be reflected in our budget—it is reflected in how I think and what I do—is to make sure this great country is secure from a bunch of coldblooded killers. And that's all they are.

There's a lot of good people—there's a lot of good people, a lot of good people who wear the uniform at the local level, working hard to secure the homeland. A lot of good firefighters and EMS and police officers spend a lot of time, a lot of time worrying about you and your health. There are a lot of good people at the State level, a lot of fine people at the Federal Government level worrying about our security. We're running down every lead. You've got to just know, any time we get a hint, a whiff, a suggestion that somebody might be trying to come back to America, we're moving. We'll protect our rights.

Listen, I believe in strongly in the United States Constitution. And I know we can protect that Constitution and at the same time make sure this homeland is secure. We've got the FBI and the CIA talking like they never have been before. We're sharing intelligence. We've got people around the world helping us. We've got freedom-loving countries sharing information with us. No, we're moving hard.

But to make sure that we even do a better job, I asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. Listen, I didn't run for—my slogan wasn't, "Vote for George. He wants Government to be bigger." But I do want it to work. I do want to be able to say to the American people we've left behind—I do want it to be said we worked together. Republicans and Democrats worked together to leave behind a strategy and the ability for future Presidents to more adequately secure the homeland.

And we're having a little problem in the Senate, see. The House passed a good bill. It allows me to move people anytime, any place, anywhere in order to best deal with an enemy which isn't going to be bound by bureaucratic rules or handbooks or volumes of micromanagement. That's not what they have to deal with. And I refuse to have future Presidents or this President deal with a Senate trying to tell me through micromanaging the process how best to secure the homeland.

I'll give you one example. On our borders we need to know who's coming into America. We need to know what they're bringing. We need to know if they're bringing something in the country, and we need to know if they're going to leave when they say they're going to leave. That's logical, and that makes common sense. And yet, on our borders, we've got three different departments dealing with our border security. We've got the INS and the Border Patrol and the Customs, all full of fine people, staffed by really great Americans, all working hard to make sure

that border security is a part of the homeland security. Except in cases now, they've got different uniforms, different cultures, different styles, perhaps different strategies. And for the sake of the country, I need to have the flexibility to meld those organizations together. I need to be able to say to the American people that we're working together. The Senate doesn't hear it yet, but the Senate is going to hear from me if they don't pass a good bill as this.

And my message to the Senate is: You need to worry less about special interest in Washington and more about the security of the American people. But the best homeland security strategy is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war, but folks, we're still at war. We're still at war. This is an enemy which—it used to be you could count an enemy's tanks or the size of its fleet, the number of aircraft they had, and say, "Oh, gosh, we're making progress. They had a thousand airplanes. Now they've got 50. We're making progress." [*Laughter*] That's not the way this war works right now. See, that's not the way it works. You've got to remember, their commanders hide in caves or in the dark corners of certain cities around the world and then send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. Theirs is an army which doesn't take a lot to fund. They're resourceful, and they're tough, but they are not as tough as the United States of America.

And we're making progress. It's hard to tell whether we're making progress or not, but we are. One person at a time, one person at a time——

Audience members. [*Inaudible*].

The President. ——thank you—one person at a time. The other day, as you noticed, there was a fellow hiding in the dark caves—or dark corners, not caves—it was in the city, dark—dark corners of a city in Pakistan. He was going to be the 20th hijacker, bin al-Shibh. He wanted to come here to kill. He didn't make it, because we fortunately did not give him access. His brothers obviously made it. They're all now dead. And he thought he was going to come. And he thought he could hide, however. You can't hide from our justice. We finally got him.

And it's typical of what's taken place. We're running them down one at a time. We've got them on the run. We're going to keep them on the run. There have been over a couple thousand of these killers who we have brought to justice. We have arrested them. It's either us or—remember that doctrine, either you're with us—by the way, a doctrine which still stands—either you're with us, or you're with them. And we're rounding them up slowly but surely. And the other piece of news is, about like number weren't as lucky as bin al-Shibh. They're off the face of the planet. They're no longer around. Slowly but surely, we're going to dismantle the Al Qaida terrorist network, so they can never hurt America and freedom again.

I sent a defense bill that says—and it's a big increase, because I strongly believe that anytime we send one of our troops into harm's way, he or she deserves the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to the troops, and we owe it to their loved ones. And if you're anybody out there who has got a member of the United States military in your family, first of all, thanks. You thank them on behalf of the Commander in Chief. I'm confident and proud of our abilities.

And secondly, I've asked for this increase in defense spending because I want to send a signal to the world, to both friend and foe alike, that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we're in this for the long pull. We're in it for the long haul. There's no calendar on my desk that says, because we're getting tired, we're going to quit. When it comes to freedoms, no matter how much the cost, no matter how long it takes, we will defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

The Congress has got the defense bill in committee. They passed it out of the House, and I'm grateful. They passed it out of the Senate, and I'm grateful. But what I'm not grateful for is, they can't get it to my desk. They need to reconcile their differences, set this as a priority, get it to my desk. For the sake of our national security, I want to sign the defense bill before they go home.

That's why we need people like Doug up there in the Senate. We don't need to play

politics with the defense bill. We need to do what's right for the country. And we need to also send a message, and I sent a message the other day, right up the way here, to the United Nations.

Here's the message I sent. I said, when we see a threat to our country, we want to work with others, of course. When we see a threat to freedom—let me put it to you that way, not just to our country, but to freedom—we'll work with others to make sure that threat doesn't materialize. See, we believe not only in dealing with the immediate. We want to make sure that we deal with problems before they become so acute that we look back and say, where were we—where were we?

And we're dealing with a man in Iraq who has done a couple of things that I remind you about. One, he gassed his own people with weapons of mass destruction. He has invaded two countries since 1980. He's a man who told the United Nations time and time and time again, "I will disarm. I don't have weapons." He lied or deceived. He has made that body look weak. For the sake of peace, the United Nations must make a decision as to whether or not it's going to be a debating society, like the League of Nations, or have the capacity to keep the peace. It's their choice to make. It is their choice to make.

There are no negotiations with Saddam Hussein about what he should or should not do. He's already said what he would do. The negotiations—the discussion is within the United Nations Security Council, and soon they will tell the world whether or not they're going to be relevant or whether or not they're going to be weak. For the sake of world peace, I hope they're relevant. However, for the sake of freedom and peace, if the United Nations will not deal with Saddam Hussein, the United States and our friends will.

We owe it to our children to defend freedom. We owe it to our children and children elsewhere to keep the peace. I want you to know that behind the rhetoric is my strong desire for the world to be a—to live in peace. And I believe it's possible. I believe it is possible that if we remain strong and focused, speak clearly about good and evil, speak clearly about the need for all of us to bind together to fight terror, to resist those who hate peace, that we can achieve peace. I recognize it might be a steep hill to climb. There's going to be some hurdles to cross. But by being resolved and determined, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only here at home, but we can achieve peace in the Middle East. We can achieve peace in South Asia. By leading the world, we can achieve peace in places where people have quit dreaming about peace.

See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They thought probably after the September the 11th, 2001, we'd kind of take a hard look and then maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand the character of this Nation. They don't understand our determination, nor do they understand our good heart and good will.

I want you to remind your kids that when it came to enforcing the doctrine that said either—the doctrine said, "If you harbor one of those killers, you're just as guilty as the killers," that we went into Afghanistan—the first theater we went into, as a great country—with friends, but we went in not to conquer anybody, not to conquer anybody. We went in to uphold doctrine and liberate people. There are young girls going to school in Afghanistan for the first time, thanks to the United States of America.

That's the nature of our country. That's the kind of people we are. We love freedom. You see, one of the things that distinguishes us from the enemy is, everybody has worth, as far as we're concerned. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. Life is precious. That's what we believe in America. And it's not just American lives that are precious; it's the life of every child, every citizen around the world. That's what they didn't understand about this country, and now they're learning the hard way.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, I believe. Here at home as well, we can achieve great good. See, there are pockets of despair here in America. There are places where people hurt. Sadly enough, there are some neighborhoods where people say, "The American Dream isn't meant for me. When you say American Dream, what are you talking about? It's not meant for me." There are

places where people are addicted, people are lonely, people have just given up.

And as long as they hurt, we hurt. And we have a chance to do something about it here in America. See, people have asked me, right after September the 11th, 2001, "What can I do to help?" I said, "What you can do to help is, you can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to fight evil, help somebody who hurts."

No, some of the greatest welfare programs in America come out of our churches and synagogues and mosques, because you know why those institutions exist? To love somebody. There's a universal call, and that's what's happening in America. This country is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. It changes when you put your arm around a child and says, "Can I help you learn to read?" It changes when you walk into a shut-in's house and say, "Can I love you," or, "Can I help you?" It changes when you run a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout troop. It changes when you care about the quality of education in your neighborhood. It changes when you become a responsible citizen.

See, one of the reasons I first sought office down in Texas was because I wanted to work—be a part of a cultural change, the change of culture from one which it said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I wanted to be a part of a cultural shift that said, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if you're a mom or a dad, it's you who is responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul."

If you're living in Trenton, New Jersey, you're responsible for the quality of life in Trenton. If you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible for telling the truth and treating your employees and shareholders with respect.

No, the enemy hit us. The enemy hit us, but instead of weakening America, it strengthened America. We still grieve for those who lost their life, but the country is responding so magnificently. People do love a neighbor more. People are loving their children more.

Perhaps the most vivid example of serving something greater than yourself, perhaps the most vivid example of being not self-absorbed and materialistic that you don't understand the call, happened on Flight 93. It's a serious lesson for our youngsters to understand. It's a serious moment. It's a significant and serious moment in our Nation's history. After all, we had people flying across the country. They thought they were on a normal trip. They learned the airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They learned that America's oceans—the oceans no longer protected America. They told their loved ones goodbye or, "I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save life, to serve something greater than yourself in life. These brave souls represented the true spirit and greatness of our country.

You can probably tell I'm an optimistic person. I am, and I have every reason to be. After all, the United States is the greatest country on the face of the Earth, full of the greatest people. I know Doug Forrester wants to keep it that way, and so do I.

I'm honored you all came today. Thanks for supporting Doug. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Sovereign Bank Arena. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Tom Kean of New Jersey; former Gov. Don DiFrancesco of New Jersey, and his wife, Diane; Robert D. Prunetti, county executive, Mercer County, NJ; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Askar Akayev on the Relationship Between the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic

September 23, 2002

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, desiring to promote a shared vision for the 21st century of a peaceful, prosperous, and sovereign

Kyrgyz Republic that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations.

We reaffirm our deep appreciation for the strong relations that have been established between our two countries based on mutual respect and the common goals of stability, peace, and prosperity. We will advance our cooperation on democratic political and free-market economic reforms, and the development of the resources of the Kyrgyz Republic and its people. We affirm that these political and economic reforms are a necessary condition to ensure political, social, and economic stability; sustainable development; prosperity; and national security.

We recognize that the threats of terrorism, trafficking of narcotics, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction endanger the security not only of the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic, but also of the Central Asian region and the world at large. We, therefore, seek to develop our security cooperation to address these challenges and foster cooperation among the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic, its Central Asian neighbors, the other regional powers, and our European partners.

Recognizing the essential role that the Kyrgyz Republic plays in the war against terrorism, we declare our intention to cooperate in this war to its conclusion and within the framework of the international coalition. We emphasize our support for the Afghan Transitional Administration and the goal that it be at peace internally and with its neighbors and integrated into the regional and international economic structures. We also express our readiness to support Afghanistan's reconstruction and the development of its natural and human resources.

In the spirit of partnership, the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States intend to strengthen joint activity to ensure security and stability in Central Asia. We agree that the expansion of trade and economic ties among the states of Central Asia, and deepening of regional integration in important areas such as the environment, water resources, and transportation systems, are a basis for regional security and prosperity. The United States is enhancing assistance programs to the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen border security and to increase the defensive capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We recognize that free-market economies, democratic political systems, and the rule of law provide the most effective means to advance the welfare of our citizens and the stability of our societies. The United States and the Kyrgyz Republic pledge to develop further our bilateral trade and investment relations, including through expanded contacts between the business communities of our countries. We are united in our mutual efforts to cooperate to accelerate the development of an attractive, transparent, and predictable investment climate in the Kyrgyz Republic. Achieving this goal requires the removal of legislative and administrative barriers to investment, strengthening respect for contracts and the rule of law, reducing corruption, and enhancing the Kyrgyz Republic's strong record on economic reform.

We reaffirm our commitment to work diligently and on a regular and sustained basis in the areas specified in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Washington on February 15, 2002, with the goal of strengthening the economic component of our bilateral cooperation. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, both sides have agreed that a high-level Kyrgyz government delegation will visit Washington in October 2002 for the purpose of further identifying realistic and achievable objectives aimed at accelerating economic reforms and development in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Recognizing that democracy is a cornerstone of long-term stability, we reaffirm our desire to strengthen democratic institutions and processes, such as civil society, independent media, local government, political pluralism, and free and fair elections. We also reaffirm our mutual commitments to advance the rule of law and promote freedom of religion and other universal human rights as enshrined by the founding documents of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. Finally, we confirm our mutual efforts to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two

countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges, initiatives of non-governmental organizations, and contacts between business people.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and the Presidents of the Central African States

September 23, 2002

We, the Heads of State of the United States, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe, met September 13, 2002 at the 57th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

We confirmed our commitment to cooperate to pursue regional peace, prosperity, freedom, and stability in Central Africa. In pursuit of these goals, we renewed our commitment to the political and economic reforms necessary to improve the lives of the people of Central Africa, and mobilize the resources required to advance development in the region. We will continue to show the leadership required to achieve these goals as the cornerstone of human freedom and dignity.

We will strengthen the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African States (CEEAC) and the Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) sub-regional organizations, and work with the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) to prevent and resolve conflict, reduce human suffering, and promote regional economic integration.

Convinced that peace and security are global, we support the call by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and President Bush for Iraq to fulfill its obligations toward the United Nations. We agree that the UN Security Council must face its responsibilities and demonstrate the resolve to enforce its resolutions.

We further agreed that cooperation is essential to combat terrorism, and affirmed our commitment to build regional and national capabilities to share information and implement United Nations Security Council resolutions to eliminate and deny sanctuary for terrorist organizations, networks, and finance across Central Africa.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. Participating in the issuance of the joint statement were: President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi; President Paul Biya of Cameroon; President Ange-Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic; President Idriss Deby of Chad; President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea; President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon; President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; and President Fradique De Menezes of Sao Tome and Principe.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 23, 2002

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared by the President on September 26, 1993, by Executive Order 12865, to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The order prohibits the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S. registered vessels or aircraft, of arms, related materiel of all types, petroleum, and petroleum products to the territory of Angola, other than through designated points of entry. The order also prohibits the sale or supply of such commodities to UNITA.

The President took additional measures with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865 by issuing Executive Orders 13069 and 13098 on December 12, 1997, and August 18, 1998, respectively. Those orders close all UNITA offices in the United States, block all property and interests in property of UNITA and designated UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families, prohibit the importation of certain diamonds exported from

Angola, and impose additional sanctions with respect to the provision of mining and transportation equipment and services.

Because of our continuing international obligations and because of the prejudicial effect that discontinuation of the sanctions would have on prospects for peace in Angola, the national emergency declared on September 26, 1993, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 26, 2002. Therefore, I am continuing the national emergency with respect to UNITA.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 49084).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998) continue to oblige all member states to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the prospects for peace in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its military operations.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Plan Colombia

September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e), of Public Law 106–246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2002 in support of Plan Colombia.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

September 24, 2002

The President. Thanks for coming. We just had a very productive Cabinet meeting. We realize there's little time left in—before the Senate and the House goes home, but we're optimistic a lot can get done between now and then. Congress must act now to pass a resolution which will hold Saddam Hussein to account for a decade of defiance.

It's time to get a homeland security bill done, one which will allow this President and this administration, and future Presidents—give us the tools necessary to protect the homeland. And we're working as hard as we can with Phil Gramm and Zell Miller to get this bill moving. It's a good bill. It's a bill that both Republicans and Democrats can and should support.

My message, of course, is that, to the Senators up here that are more interested in special interests, you better pay attention to the overall interests of protecting the American people.

We can get budget going. I need a defense bill. The Senate needs to get and the House needs to get their differences reconciled and get a defense bill to my desk before they go home. That's a very important signal to send. And at the same time, since there is no budget in the Senate, they've got to be mindful of overspending, very important for those up there who keep talking about budget—balanced budget and all that—to not overspend. If they're truly that concerned about the deficit, then one way they can help is to be fiscally sound with the people's money.

We talked about the need to get pension reform and an energy bill, terrorism insurance. There's time to get all this done, and we look forward to working with the Members of Congress to get it done.

I'll answer a couple of questions, starting with Fournier [Ron Fournier] of the AP.

British Dossier on Iraq/Al Gore

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Can I have your reaction to two recent assessments on the situation in Iraq? First, Tony Blair said today that Saddam has tried to acquire significant quantities of uranium and can quickly deploy chemical and biological weapons. But there seems to be little new information in the dossier. Secondly, former Vice President Al Gore——

The President. That might explain why.

Q. Pardon me, sir?

The President. Explain why he didn't put new information—to protect sources. Go ahead.

Q. If you could explain why, I'd appreciate it. And secondly, Vice President Al Gore——

The President. That's right, I forgot our different roles. [*Laughter*]

Q. I couldn't even get on the ballot. [*Laughter*]

The President. Did that have something to do with the background check? [*Laughter*]

Q. When I have something on that, I'll let you know, sir. [*Laughter*]

The Vice President yesterday said that you've managed to replace the world's sympathy on Iraq with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. And you're using the issue to steer attention away from the inability to get Usama bin Laden.

The President. I'm confident that a lot of Democrats here in Washington, DC, understand that Saddam is a true threat to America. And I look forward to working with them to get a strong resolution passed.

Prime Minister Blair, first of all, is a very strong leader, and I admire his willingness

to tell the truth and to lead. Secondly, he has—continues to make the case, like we make the case, that Saddam Hussein is a threat to peace, that for 11 years, he has deceived the world. For 11 years, he's ignored the United Nations, and for 11 years, he has stockpiled weapons. And we shouldn't deceive ourselves about this man. He has poisoned his people before. He has poisoned his neighborhood. He is willing to use weapons of mass destruction. And the Prime Minister continues to make the case, and so will I.

And I again call for the United Nations to pass a strong resolution holding this man to account. And if they're unable to do so, the United States and our friends will act, because we believe in peace. We want to keep the peace. We don't trust this man, and that's what the Blair report showed today.

The reason why it wasn't specific is because—I understand why—he's not going to reveal sources and methods of collection of sensitive information. Those sources and methods may be—will be used later on, I'm confident, as we gather more information about how this man has deceived the world.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Yes. Sorry. Excuse me. Go ahead.

Q. Sir, do you want to specifically respond, please, to Al Gore, instead of just generally about Democrats? What did you think about his——

The President. I just responded. I mean, there's a lot of Democrats in Washington, DC, who understand that Saddam Hussein is a true threat and that we must hold him to account. And I believe you'll see, as we work to get a strong resolution out of the Congress, that a lot of Democrats are willing to take the lead when it comes to keeping the peace.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, Arab leaders are warning the terrorism coalition and your efforts in Iraq are at risk because of the Arafat siege. Why didn't U.S. support last night's U.N. resolution, and what can you say to get Israel to end the siege?

The President. What we do support is this, Steve—and our abstention should have sent a message that we hope that all parties stay on the path to peace. And I laid out what the path to peace—what the path to peace was here at the—in the Rose Garden. First of all, we all have got to fight terror. But as we fight terror, particularly in the Middle East, they've got to build the institution necessary for a Palestinian state to emerge, that we've got to promote the leadership that is willing to condemn terror and, at the same time, work toward the embetterment of the lives of the Palestinian people. There are a lot of suffering people there, and we've got to help end the suffering.

And I thought the actions the Israelis take—the Israelis took were not helpful in terms of the establishment and development of the institutions necessary for a Palestinian state to emerge. We will continue to work with all parties in the region, Israel and everybody else who wants to fight off terror. We'll do that.

In order for there to be peace, we must battle terror. But at the same time, we must have a hopeful response. And the most hopeful response of all for the Palestinian people is for—to work for a state to emerge. And that is possible. I believe strongly it can happen. I believe it's—I believe in peace in the Middle East. And I would urge all governments to work toward that peace.

And we're making progress, and that's what's important for the world to know. We're making progress on the security front. We're making progress on the political reform front. We're making progress to make it clear that if there is to be a peaceful settlement, that the Palestinians must be given the opportunity to bring forth leadership which is willing to work toward peace. And it was not helpful what happened recently.

Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, we haven't asked you about the economy in quite some time. Consumer confidence numbers out today—not real good. Later this month, lots of Americans are going to receive their 401(k) statements, many of them probably cringing about what they're going to see in there. Do you feel like the economy is on the right track, that the stock market can mount any

kind of a recovery in coming months? And if you are optimistic, what are your reasons for your optimism?

The President. Yes. Well, I'm optimistic because, one, I'm optimistic about America in general. I mean, the American people are resilient; they're strong. We've got the best workers in the world. Inflation is down. Interest rates are low. So when you combine the productivity of the American people with low interest rates and low inflation, those are the ingredients for growth.

But there's more to do. That's why we need a terrorism insurance bill. We need to get our hardhats working again. We need to make the tax cuts permanent so that entrepreneurs and small businesses have got certainty in the Tax Code. We need to make sure Congress doesn't overspend. If Congress overspends, it will send a chilling signal to markets. And so there are things that Congress and the administration can do, working together to make sure people work.

But I'm an optimist. I'm optimistic because this is America; that's what makes me optimistic. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong, and we're really good at a lot of things we do.

But no question that, you know, that things changed, I mean, from the boom days. The market started to decline in March of 2000. That's when it peaked. The sellers outnumbered the buyers starting in March of 2000. And then in the summer of 2000, the economy began to slow down, people began to see a serious slowdown. And then we came into office, and we had three quarters of negative growth. That's called a recession.

And we're dealing with it. We're dealing with a sound—a fiscal policies, starting with letting people have more of their own money. See, the tax cut was actually necessary, a necessary part of economic recovery. And there are some up here in Washington, DC, who would like to raise the taxes on the people. And that's just—that's bad economics; that's bad policy. People up here want to stop the reduction in income taxes for the American people. That's bad policy in the face of an economic slowdown.

So you bet I'm optimistic. But I understand we've got a lot of work to do. And we will—we will continue to work hard to make sure that people can find work.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Spring Championship Teams

September 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Welcome. Please be seated. Thank you. This is champions day here at the White House, and I want to welcome all the champs who are here. I particularly love being around those who've set high goals, worked hard to achieve them, and win.

I want to thank the chancellors, presidents, athletic directors, supporters, family members for being here as well. I'm honored to welcome people of high accomplishment to the White House. You're here during extraordinary times. This is a time of challenge for our country. It's really a time to determine the fiber of our Nation, the character of our people. We're being tested. But because we're Americans, because we believe things—hold values deeply in our heart, we will succeed. There's no question in my mind.

And one way we're going to succeed is for all of us, particularly the champs here, to remember there is a responsibility that comes with being a champion. I happen to believe you have a responsibility to set an example for others, that as you succeed on the field of play, you've got to remember there are youngsters looking at you, trying to determine how they should live their life. So as you set high standards for yourself, I hope you remember people are watching and that you can affect people's lives in an incredibly positive way.

There's another way you can serve your community as well, by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that a champion on the field can be a champion off the

field by mentoring a child or caring for somebody in need or helping to eliminate pockets of despair and hopelessness in the country. You've got an opportunity as champions to be champions off the field in the community in which you live. And there's no question in my mind that when you put your mind to it, you can. You can help shape the character of the country. You can overcome—help overcome evil by doing some good in the communities in which you live.

So I want to welcome you all here. I want to welcome two Members of the United States Congress, Jim Walsh and Joe Wilson—Jim from New York, and Joe from South Carolina.

I appreciate all the team captains who are up here. And it's now my honor to kind of go through the roster of the champs, those who have earned the title of NCAA champion and, therefore, get to come to this fabulous place—[*laughter*]—my temporary home.

First, out of the State of California, the softball champs, NCAA softball champs from the University of California, coached by Diane Ninemire. These girls beat a tough field. They got a one-hitter from Jocelyn Forrest to win the championship. It's my honor to welcome the Golden Bears of California here to the White House.

[*At this point, third baseman Candace Harper presented the President with a team jersey.*]

The President. Next, men's lacrosse. This year was dominated by Syracuse. I say "dominated"—they won the last four games by one goal, but they were 15 and 2. [*Laughter*] They were 15 and 2. They've won their eighth national championship. They are coached by John Desko. A fine group of people from Syracuse. Congratulations, and welcome to the White House.

[*Team captain Josh Coffman presented the President with a signed team poster.*]

The President. And then the best women's lacrosse team in the history of Princeton University is with us. At least, that's how they were rated by those who know something about women's lacrosse. Their coach is Chris Sailer—Gary Walters, the athletic director. These ladies scored the most points and the most goals in Princeton history. I know the Syracuse men beat Princeton. It's lucky you didn't play the women this year. [*Laughter*] Anyway, it's my honor to welcome the Princeton Tigers, NCAA champs here.

[*Team co-captain Lauren Simone presented the President with a T-shirt featuring the final score of the team's win against Yale during the season.*]

The President. Tennis team. [*Laughter*] The University of Southern California Trojans have been coached by a man named Dick Leach for 23 years. And under his leadership, they've won four NCAA champions; they've won 16 in their school's history.

It is my honor to welcome Coach Leach, the University of Southern California Trojan champions, along with new coach Peter Smith and Athletic Director Mike Garrett. Welcome to the White House.

[*Team captain Andrew Park presented the President with an inscribed tennis racket.*]

The President. Stanford University. They win a lot of things, and this year the women's tennis team is here at the White House because they won the NCAA champions. They're coached by Lele Forood. They have been here a lot. They were here 2 years in a row. This is their second year in a row. They have won the national championship 12 times in 22 years. It is my honor to welcome a group of ladies from a school that has had an unbelievable tradition of winning NCAA championships, and that is the Stanford women's tennis team. Welcome.

[*Team members presented the President with a T-shirt.*]

The President. Men's golf. The University of Minnesota won its first NCAA men's golf championship this year. Incredibly enough, it was the only team in the tournament to finish below par. That's a hard course.

I want to thank Brad James, the head coach, and Joel Maturi, who is the athletic director, for coming. And congratulations to the Golden Gophers golf team of Minnesota.

[*Assistant coach Andrew Tank presented the President with a box of golf balls.*]

The President. Guy must think I play golf a lot around here. [*Laughter*]

And the women's golf team of Duke University is the NCAA champs, coached by Dan Brooks. This is their second national title. Joel Alleva is here as well, who is the athletic director. Dan Brooks must be a great coach—looks like a pretty young guy to me, and he's already in the National Golf Coaches' Association Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Duke. Congratulations for a victory. These girls told me they're going to be back next year. I look forward to seeing them again.

[*Team captain Candy Hanneman presented the President with a box of golf balls.*]

The President. LS&U, right across the border from where I used to live. I want to welcome the men's outdoor track and field team and the women's indoor track and field team. If you ever follow college track, you know that LSU has been dominant, to say the least. And once again, they have been dominant. This is the 23d championship under Coach Pat Henry's leadership. And I want to welcome, first, the men's outdoor track team. Welcome to the White House, and congratulations for a great victory.

[*Team member Walter Davis presented the President with a gift.*]

The President. And the women's indoor track team routed the field this year. Their closest competitor was 14 points. Welcome to the LSU Tigers women's track team. Congratulations.

[*Team members presented the President with a T-shirt.*]

The President. The University of South Carolina had never won an NCAA championship until this year, when the women's outdoor track and field team beat a tough field. It's my honor to welcome Andrew Sorensen, who is the president of the University, Mike McGee, the athletic director, Coach Curtis Frye, and the women from the University of South Carolina. It's a great tribute to your skill and talent. It's a great honor for you to have won your university's first NCAA championship. Welcome to the White House.

[*Team member Demetria Washington presented the President with a team warm-up jacket.*]

The President. And finally—[*laughter*]—the mighty Longhorns of the University of Texas. There were a lot of people here in the White House that were sweating out the NCAA final in college baseball this year. I'm probably going to rewrite a little history here, but I was the Governor when Augie Garrido first came to the University of Texas. And as I recall it, he said, "I'm going to win a national championship for Texas." He just didn't tell me he was going to win the national championship and I was going to be the President. [*Laughter*] He forgot the second part.

But we're really proud of the University of Texas. We're proud of Coach Garrido. We're proud of the—we're proud of—all the Texans here that work here in Washington, DC, are proud to be able to "hook the horns." Congratulations.

[*Team captain Ryan Hubele presented the President with a team jersey.*]

The President. So that concludes championship day here at the White House. We hope to see you all here next year. In the meantime, I want you to remember that you're a citizen of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John R. Thune

September 24, 2002

Thank you all for coming. "Senator," thanks for that kind introduction. There should be no doubt where my allegiance is in South Dakota, and that's with John Thune, the next Senator from the State of South Dakota.

There's a lot of reasons why I think John ought to be in the Senate, starting with the fact that he really married well. [*Laughter*] Probably some of you haven't had a chance

to meet Kimberley, but you'll know it's true when I say he married above himself. [*Laughter*] They've got a fabulous family. Every time I've been to South Dakota, they've been there to greet me. And there's no doubt in my mind where his priorities lay, and that is with his family and his faith and his State and his country. He's a man of deep value, a good, honorable guy. He's a man who will bring credit to the United States Senate, and I'm proud to endorse him and to work as hard as I possibly can to see that he becomes the next Senator from South Dakota.

Kimberley was wise enough to skip my speech, and so was Laura. [*Laughter*] She sends her affection to the Thunes and joins me in thanking you all for being here to support this good fellow.

Laura is doing great, by the way. She was a, you know, public school librarian when I married her, and she didn't like politics and really didn't like politicians, if the truth be known. [*Laughter*] She liked a few of them, but she could never envision herself being involved in the political process. And thank goodness she said yes when I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering why she did that. But she's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady. She sends her best.

I want to thank some Senators here who are anxiously awaiting the arrival of John Thune. I know Trent Lott is here, soon to be majority leader of the Senate. I know Bill Frist is here, from Tennessee, in the back. Thank you for coming, Bill. I see my friend Larry Craig is here. I appreciate you coming, Larry.

I know a lot of Members of Congress who are here because they know John and like him a lot. I want to thank all the supporters and organizers who have helped in the past and are helping this time again. I appreciate you all coming. It's good to be with friends and people who care deeply about the future of our country—something we all have got to be concerned about, the future of our country.

One of the things I like about John is that he's a fellow who can get things done on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota and the citizens of our country. As you know, a lot of folks are suffering out there as a result of a drought. And in Washington there's always a lot of talk about trying to get something done, and a lot of times something doesn't get done in this town.

But thanks to his leadership, his willingness to represent the farmers and ranchers of South Dakota, he worked with Ann Veneman and my administration to get immediate relief to people who hurt. So while Washington was talking, John Thune was doing on behalf of the people of South Dakota.

Not only is the drought the challenge, but so is our economy. We've got people who want to work and can't find work, and we've got to do something about it. And I want somebody in the Senate who understands the role of Government, and that's not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, an environment in which we understand the role of Government is to lay the foundation for growth. And that's what we have been doing here in Washington, much to the objections of some.

I want you to remember back during the tax cut debate, I said—and John agreed—that we needed to let people keep more of their own money. When the economy began to slow, it was important to let people have more of their own money so they could spend, and when they would spend, somebody would produce a good or a service. And when somebody produced the good or service to meet their demand, somebody is more likely to find work.

We got the tax cut passed. But because of the rules of the Senate—and this one's a hard one to explain. It's a hard one to explain in South Dakota, and it's a hard one to explain in Crawford, Texas. But because of the rules of the Senate, that tax relief plan we passed goes away in 10 years, 9 years from now. And that creates uncertainty in the economy. It's hard to plan when the Tax Code shifts around. It's hard to—it's hard to envision a future that's stable. And people need a stable environment in order to create jobs. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, I need people in the Senate who will make the tax cuts permanent, a permanent part of our Tax Code.

And that includes permanently repealing the death tax. That should be an issue in South Dakota. There's a lot of farmers and ranchers who are going to get run off their farms and ranches if we don't repeal the death tax forever. We don't need people playing games with the death tax to mask their desire to keep the death tax in place. When this man says he's going to support us to get rid of the death tax, he means it. It's an important voice to have in the Senate.

As well, we've got a problem with fiscal sanity in Washington. Every idea is a good idea up here. The problem is, every idea costs billions of dollars. The Senate hasn't passed a budget. And when you don't have a budget, it is—it's liable to encourage excessive spending. And if there's excessive spending, it's going to serve as a drag on job creation.

If you're interested in job vitality, it's important for Washington, DC, to be fiscally sound with the people's money, to spend money on priorities and only spend money on priorities. And John Thune understands that. We need more fiscal sanity in the United States Senate, and he will bring that. We proposed—my budget I proposed shows us a way to get back to balance after a difficult period of time, after an attack and an emergency and a recession. And some in the Senate hadn't heard that message. But John Thune will hear it. He understands what I understand: The money we spend up here is not the Government's money. The money we spend up here is the taxpayers' money, and we need to watch it carefully.

We need an energy bill, for the sake of job creation as well as for national security purposes. We need a terrorism insurance bill to get our hardhats working again and, by the way, a bill which will reward hard work but not reward trial lawyers.

We need commonsense thinking when it comes to our national forests. John understands this. Larry understands this. We've allowed our forests to build up like giant piles of kindling, as a result of backward environmental policy. We need commonsense practices. We need commonsense thinking in the United States Senate. And that's the kind of thinking John will bring.

And we also need to have people up there who understand the true challenge we face in America, and the challenge we face is the security of our homeland. My most important job, I believe the most important job of our Congress, is to work together to make the homeland secure, is to do everything we possibly can to prevent an enemy which hates America from attacking us again.

Oh, I know some would wish the enemy would go away, but they're not. You see, they hate freedom, and we love freedom. They can't stand what we stand for. But we're going to stand for what we stand for forever. See, we love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can come to our country and realize their dreams. We love the fact that people can debate freely. We love a free press.

We love everything there is about freedom, and we also value each life in our country and around the world. Everybody matters. Everybody has worth. Everybody counts. But that's not the way the enemy thinks. They don't believe in every life matters. They're willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

And so we've got a big task ahead of us today and tomorrow and down the road, and that is to defend our freedoms. And that's why I asked the Congress to respond to this notion of setting up a Department of Homeland Security. We've got to be able to better coordinate between our agencies the defense of our homeland. If the number one priority is homeland defense, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency involved with homeland defense. And the best way to ensure that happens is to put them under one umbrella and then give the President, this President and future Presidents, the ability and the flexibility to move people at the right place at the right time in order to defeat an enemy and to defend America.

And yet right now in the Senate, the Senate feels like they want to micromanage the process—not all Senators but some Senators. They want to have a pile of books this thick that will hamstring future administrations as to how best to protect our homeland, and I'm not going to stand for it.

I appreciate John's vote on a good homeland security bill. And the Senate must hear

this, because the American people understand it. They should not respond to special interests. They ought to respond to this interest: Protecting the American people from a future attack.

Finally, you all know this—John understands this, and I hope you do as well—the best way to defend our homeland is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and to bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's what this country is going to do. And that's why I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did so for two valid reasons. One, our people deserve the best pay. If you put the uniform on and you go into harm's way, you've got to have the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, I asked for that bill because I wanted to send a clear signal to everybody that we're in this deal for the long pull, that there's not a moment in time where we say, "Well, gosh, we quit," that this country will do whatever it takes to defend our freedoms.

And one of the things I just call upon the Congress to do before they go home is to get the defense bill to my desk. It passed the House. It passed the Senate. It's now clogged up in a conference committee. For the sake of sending the right signal, for the sake of doing what's right for our military, for the sake for doing what's right for planning, for prosecuting this war, I need a defense bill before they go home.

Our job is to keep the peace. Our job is to leave a legacy of freedom for our children and our children's children. My job is to remain firm and to uphold the doctrine, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy." That still stands. The doctrine says, "If you harbor a terrorist and feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist." That still stands.

It also stands that we must not allow leaders who develop the world's worst weapons to blackmail the United States or our friends and allies, to hold us hostage. I went to the United Nations because I want the United Nations to have heard not only the case about Saddam Hussein—the fact that he has weapons of mass destruction, the fact that he gassed his own people, the fact that he terrorized his neighborhood, the fact that he has terrorized his own people much worse than Mr. Milosevic did. I also made it clear to the United Nations, we want, for the sake of peace, for the United Nations to be an effective body. We don't want it to be a League of Nations. We want it to be a body that can—that has got the backbone necessary to keep the peace. I'm willing to work with nations in the United Nations to not only strengthen that institution but to hold Saddam Hussein to account.

But if the United Nations won't act, if they won't disarm Saddam Hussein, if they won't expose this liar for what he is, then the United States and other friends of ours around the world will do just that. We owe it to our children, and we owe it to our children's children.

And I want to thank members of both parties in the United States Congress for working to develop a strong resolution and strong signal to the world that this Nation is determined. We love peace. Military is not our first choice. But nevertheless, we will not let the challenges that we face go unheeded. We understand the reality. We understand the nature of the man with which we deal. Everybody matters. Every life counts, including those who have been tortured and killed and suppressed in Iraq.

See, we believe in freedom. We believe in freeing people while we free ourselves from threats. I understand the—I understand that the world is—some in the world are—don't see it that way. But if we have to and when we succeed, the world will thank the United States and our friends and allies for making our world more secure and more peaceful.

I appreciate the fact that people say to me, you know, "How are things going?" And my answer very quickly is, "Great, because we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. We are showing the world the true nature of our country, that we're tough when we have to be tough, and we're compassionate at the same time."

I met with a group of Afghan women who are involved in their Government. I reminded them what I like to remind people

all across our country, particularly the youngsters, that we went into their country to uphold doctrine. But we also went in to liberate people. Ours is a nation which does not conquer. We have no territorial designs or desires. But we love freedom.

It made me feel so great to see 14 women, who had lived under the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, sitting in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, talking about how to enhance education, asking us never to leave until they're secure—which I promised them we wouldn't—talking about peace, talking about a hopeful future, thanks to the resolve of the United States of America and her people.

I also want you to know that not only will that kind of good come out of the evil done to us, but I passionately believe not only can we achieve peace in places in the world which have quit on peace, but we can address some of our own problems at home in a way we have never addressed them before.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this country; there just are. There are people who hurt. There are people who are addicted. There are people who say, when somebody says "the American Dream," they don't know what they're talking about. See, they've given up on the American experience. But that can be overcome as our fellow citizens love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

You see, the enemy hit us. But they didn't know who they were hitting. I like to say that they probably thought that after 9/11/2001, we would file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] What they found is, they found they touched a nerve in this country, a nerve that says we'll defend our values at any cost.

But also they touched a nerve where Americans have taken a step back and realize that being a patriot is more than putting your hand over your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Being a patriot is helping a fellow American who hurts, mentoring a child, starting a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop, being involved with a church or synagogue and mosque program necessary to feed the hungry or to find shelter for those who have no place to live. That's the America that is now showing its face to the world. Out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because our people are so good, and we are so great as a nation.

I want to thank you for helping John. He'll be a great United States Senator. Thank you for coming, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:18 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Kimberley Thune, wife of Representative Thune; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and former President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Representative Thune is a candidate for the U.S. Senate in South Dakota.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and an Exchange With Reporters

September 25, 2002

President Bush. Thank you. Welcome. Here's what we're going to do. I am going to give a statement; President Uribe will give a statement. I will call upon an American journalist; the President will call upon a Colombian journalist. I will then call upon another American journalist; the President will call upon a Colombian journalist. And then you all will leave. [*Laughter*]

Mr. President, welcome to the Oval Office. It is my honor to welcome this good man, this friend of freedom, to the Oval Office. I have been incredibly impressed by his vision for a peaceful Colombia and a prosperous Colombia. He's a man who told the people of his country that he would work to eradicate terrorism, narcotrafficking. The Colombian people believe him, and so do I. And today I want to affirm our country's strong desire to help the Colombian Government and the Colombian people prosper and to live in freedom. I appreciate his leadership. I appreciate his strength of character. I appreciate his clear vision.

So, Mr. President, *bienvenidos a la* Oval Office, *aqui en la Casa Blanca.*

President Uribe. *Muchas gracias, Presidente.*

[*At this point, President Uribe continued in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Would you like that translated into English?

President Uribe. Thank you, Mr. President, for this warm welcome. We need the support of your country, the support of your Government, your personal support for my country to solve problems of violence, economic and social problems. You have set up a very effective example of the way we need to go on to fight and to defeat terrorism. We are in necessity to have allies such as you and your Government for Colombians to restore law and order, for Colombians to restore a way of creating employment, of improvement of our standard of living.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. *Por nada.* [*Laughter*]

Patsy Wilson, Reuters.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Al Qaida

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that Saddam Hussein is a bigger threat to the United States than Al Qaida?

President Bush. That's a—that is a interesting question. I'm trying to think of something humorous to say—[*laughter*]—but I can't when I think about Al Qaida and Saddam Hussein. They're both risks. They're both dangerous. The difference, of course, is that Al Qaida likes to hijack governments. Saddam Hussein is a dictator of a government. Al Qaida hides; Saddam doesn't. But the danger is, is that they work in concert. The danger is, is that Al Qaida becomes an extension of Saddam's madness and his hatred and his capacity to extend weapons of mass destruction around the world.

Both of them need to be dealt with. The war on terror—you can't distinguish between Al Qaida and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror. And so it's a comparison that is—I can't make because I can't distinguish between the two, because they're both equally as bad and equally as evil and equally as destructive.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Question for a Colombian reporter?

Assistance to Colombia

Q. Mr. President Bush, the Colombian Government is here asking for support from the U.S. Government, economic support, both with the Andean Trade Preference Act and also maybe from the Department of Treasury. Is the Government—the U.S. Government willing to help the Colombian Government?

President Bush. We're certainly willing to help the Government and the Colombian people realize a prosperous future. I've asked my Secretary of Treasury to be here today to listen to the dialog with the President. There will be further discussions. The Andean Trade Preference Act has been renewed and revitalized to the benefit of the Colombian economy. We had a big discussion here in America, and I got a favorable vote out of our Congress that I'm confident will benefit those who seek work in Colombia. We look forward to working with international institutions to help this good man and this good—important country to grow and prosper.

And so the purpose of this visit is to not only talk about prosperity and economic growth and vitality, but it's also to talk about how to fight terror. And I'm looking forward to a good and active discussion.

Terry Moran [ABC News].

2002 Elections and the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, are you politicizing the war? Do you think Americans should base their vote in November in part on where a candidate stands on the war?

President Bush. I think the American people ought to understand that life has changed here in this country, that it used to be two oceans would separate us from danger, that we were quite comfortable in our shores knowing that it would take an unusual circumstance to be attacked. After September the 11th, we were attacked, and the American people understand that this country must deal with the true threats.

I am as determined today as I was on September the 11th to pursue an enemy which still wants to hurt America. I am absolutely determined to make sure that 10 years from now we don't look back and say, "What happened? Why did America go soft? Why did we ignore true threats that face our people?"

And I hope the American people understand that. I was concerned, of course, after September the 11th, that as time went by,

some might forget, some might forget the true threats. Of course, I'm reminded of that every day when I come here to the Oval Office, that we face true threats. And Terry, my job is to protect the American people. It's my most important job, most important assignment I have. And I will continue to do that, regardless of the season.

Q. So it's a legitimate political issue?

President Bush. Legitimate national security concern is what it is. You may try to politicize it. I view it as my main obligation; that is to protect the American people. It's the most important job this President will have, and it's the most important job future Presidents will have, because the nature of war has changed. We're vulnerable, and therefore, I expect—the American people should expect me, and any President, to do everything we can to protect the homeland. And I will. I'll do that.

Carlos Costano/International Criminal Court

Q. Mr. President, a question for both. What are your reactions on the U.S. extradition request of Colombian paramilitary leader Carlos Costano? And if you would also answer, Colombia sent you a letter yesterday saying that there's no need to sign a bilateral agreement with the U.S. in terms of the ICC that you are seeking to sign with all other countries in the world. Do you think—do you still like a bilateral agreement with Colombia and those——

President Bush. Yes, we want an Article 98 with all countries, absolutely. I strongly reject the ICC. I'm not going to accept an ICC. I'm not going to put ourselves in a position where our soldiers and diplomats get hauled into a court over which we have got—the prosecutors whom we don't know, the judges—I mean, we're not going to allow ourselves to do that. And our friends shouldn't want us to be put in that position. Therefore, we're seeking Article 98s from our friends.

And we will hold people to account. If they're a terrorist, we're going to hold them to account. So the guy who got indicted yesterday made a decision to be a terrorist. We made a decision to hold him to account. And we will continue to do that. We believe that's part of our responsibility as freedom-loving people.

And I look forward to working with President Uribe to hold others to account, if they continue to terrorize the world. And terrorism—terrorists attacked our country and hurt us. If they attack Colombia and hurt them, they're still equally as guilty, as far as we're concerned. It doesn't matter who the victim is. What matters is whether or not they're practicing terrorist activities.

And we will continue to fight terror. It's our obligation, our duty. History has called us into action.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Carlos Costano, leader of the United Self-Defense Forces, who was indicated on drug trafficking charges. The President also referred to the U.S. effort to seek a bilateral agreement with the Government of Colombia under Article 98 of the Rome Treaty, with the aim of preventing U.S. nationals from falling under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Remarks at the National Republican Senatorial Committee Dinner

September 25, 2002

Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for coming tonight. I appreciate so many of our fellow Americans being here. I'm here because I want to urge you to do everything you can to make sure that the United States Senate is a Republican Senate.

In order to make real progress for America, I believe we need to have a change of leadership in the United States Senate. And together—together—we can work together to make America a stronger place, a safer place, and a better place for everybody who is fortunate enough to live in this country.

I want to thank Bill Frist, who's the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. I want to thank you for your kind words. I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank Karyn Frist for being a patient woman, standing by this guy. Frist and I married above ourselves. We both married Texas women. Laura is not here. I wish she were. She's on her way down to do a

little diplomatic work in Mexico. She sends her best. She sends her love. And I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she's doing on behalf of America.

They tell me this is a successful dinner. And I'm not surprised. After all, the chairman of the dinner is from Texas, a fine United States Senator, a close friend, Kay Bailey Hutchison. Kay, I want to thank you for your dedication and for your hard work.

I also am honored to be in the presence of the next majority leader of the United States Senate, Trent Lott. I want to thank all the Senators who are here tonight. I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you.

One Senator not here tonight is Senator Strom Thurmond. Today he gave what is likely his farewell speech on the floor of a body he loves a lot. I join his colleagues and join you all in expressing our appreciation and deep admiration for Senator Strom Thurmond and his 48 years of service in the United States Senate.

I also want to thank my friend Michael W. Smith and Debbie Smith for being here. You're in for a real treat when you hear him sing. He is one of the great voices in America. I love his spirit. I love his soul. I'm proud to call him friend. I wish I could stay for the songs, Michael, but my dinner might get cold. [*Laughter*]

I want to work with all of us here in Washington to make America a stronger place. And that starts with making sure we do everything in our power to make our economy grow. See, if anybody who wants to work can't find a job, we've got a problem. And so we've got to continue to focus on economic growth and economic vitality. And we made great progress when we controlled the Senate by cutting the taxes on the American people.

Well, I know—I know some up here in Washington have read a different textbook from most of us. But here's a page we remember. It says, "If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody in America is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work."

The tax cuts came as our economy was slowing down. The tax cuts came at the right time in American history, and we need a Senate who makes the tax cuts permanent.

Working together, we promoted a trade bill, which is good for American jobs. If you're a confident nation, like we must be, if you believe in the productivity of the American worker, if you believe in the strength of the American entrepreneur, you open up markets around the world. And thanks to the Senate, and thanks to many Senators here, I have now got trade promotion authority, which I will use for the good of the American worker.

We began to lose some confidence in our system because some of our fellow Americans thought it was okay to fudge the books, to hide numbers. And so we came together, thanks to many in this room, and passed the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. We believe that those who run corporations in America have a responsibility. They have a responsibility to the shareholder. They have a responsibility to the employee. And if we catch somebody fudging the numbers, there's not going to be any more easy money in America; there's just going to be hard time.

And there's more we can do, and these Senators here in this audience understand it. We need an energy bill. We need an energy bill for the sake of job security, and we need an energy bill for the sake of national security.

We need terrorism insurance. We want to put our hardhats back to work. We need a bill that helps get construction projects moving again. But we want a bill that rewards the hard-working hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

And as the Congress heads to home, it's very important to remember that to make sure job creation continues and to make sure our economy strengthens, we must not overspend in Washington, DC. It's very important that Members of the Congress understand whose money we're spending. See, it's not the Government's money. We're spending the people's money, and we've got to be

wise about how we spend the people's money.

Every idea up here sounds like a good idea. Except in Washington, when you start totaling up the bill, it runs into the billions. And so, for the sake of job creation, the Congress must not use a continuing resolution for pet projects. For the sake of fiscal sanity, we must fund our priorities and hold the line elsewhere in the budget. And I appreciate the Senators leading the charge in this audience, understanding the need for fiscal—that fiscal responsibility equals jobs for the American people.

And for a stronger America, we need good judges. We need people who will not write the law from the benches but people who strictly interpret the Constitution. I have been appalled at what has taken place in the United States Senate recently. I named two good judges, one from Mississippi and one from my home State of Texas, Charles Pickering, Priscilla Owen. Their records were distorted. I don't think they were given a fair hearing. Special interests got a hold of the committee. It is not right that these two fine, fine people were denied the bench.

Soon the Senate will take up the nomination of Miguel Estrada. Miguel Estrada is an excellent lawyer. He's a fine man. He's an American success story. The Senate should not play politics with this nomination, for he will be an outstanding judge. One of the reasons to change the United States Senate is to make sure the good judges I nominate get a fair hearing, a swift vote, and approval.

And as we work hard to make sure our economy grows so people can find work, we've also got to remember our number one priority, and that is to protect our homeland from further attack. There's an enemy which hates America lurking around. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate everything our country stands for. They can't stand the thought that in this great country, we worship an almighty God any way we see fit. They can't stand the thought that we have good, honest political discourse. They hate a free press. They hate everything we love.

And there's something else which distinguishes us from the enemy. We value life in America. We say everybody has worth. Everybody is precious. They take innocent life, as they've hijacked a great religion. And because the enemy lurks and because we refuse to yield on our love for freedom, we must prepare the homeland for future attack.

I asked the Congress to join me in creating a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because we must better coordinate our defenses. If homeland security is the number one priority of the Government, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency in Washington, DC. If protecting the homeland is the number one priority, we ought to be in a position where we can move people to protect our homeland. This President and future Presidents must have the ability to put the right people in the right place at the right time in order to protect America.

Unfortunately, some Senators, not all Senators but some Senators, believe it is best to try to micromanage the process, believe the best way to secure the homeland is to have a thick book of regulations which will hamstring this administration and future administrations from dealing with an enemy that could care less about thick books of regulations. Unfortunately, some in the Senate, not all in the Senate, want to take away the power that all Presidents have had since Jimmy Carter. And I'm not going to stand for it. The Senate must hear this, because the American people understand it: They should not respond to special interests in Washington, DC. They ought to respond to this interest—protecting the American people from future attack.

I see Senator Gramm from Texas here. I want to thank Senator Gramm, Republican, Senator Zell Miller, Democrat from Georgia, for proposing a good piece of legislation. I urge the Senate to support this legislation. It is right for America. You see, we have a chance to leave a legacy behind. And that legacy could be found in the Gramm-Miller bill. I support it strongly. I urge all the Senate to support this good piece of legislation.

The best way to secure the homeland of America, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which America will do.

It's a different kind of war. It used to be you could count progress against an enemy by the number of tanks he had or the number of airplanes he had or the number of ships

he was able to float. We're fighting against people who hide in caves, people who kind of find dark corners and lurk around them, and at the same time, boldly send youngsters to their own suicidal death. Those are the kind of people we fight. They don't require much money. But if they're trying to get money, we're cutting it off.

What it requires is a United States that is firm in our resolve, determined in our efforts, a United States who is willing—which is willing to uphold doctrine. One doctrine is: Either you're with us, or the enemy. And that doctrine still stands today. The other doctrine is: If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists who murdered thousands of Americans.

And we're making progress. We're making progress in this first war of the 21st century. Just ask the Taliban. [*Laughter*] I want you all to remind your children about the great strength and heart of this country. Not only do we do what we say we're going to do, but we went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate a nation from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, young girls now go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And we're not leaving. There's more work to do. There are Al Qaida killers lurking around the neighborhood. But they must understand there is no cave deep enough, there is no corner dark enough for the long arm of justice of the United States and our friends and allies. We've arrested over a couple of thousand of them. Got one the other day, one of the ones kind of bragging about he thought he was going to be the 20th—20th killer on September the 11th. He poked his head up, and we found him. He's no longer a threat to freedom. And there's a lot of them like him. Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down.

And we've got a lot of work to do. There's a lot more effort that's going to go into securing America and our friends and defending our freedom. And that's why I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense appropriations since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I firmly and strongly believe that any time we send one of our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to them, and we owe it to their loved ones.

It also will send a message—this defense appropriation increase will send a message to friend and foe alike that the United States is not going to quit when it comes to our freedom, that no matter how long it takes, no matter how tough the task, this Nation will defend our freedoms. History has put the spotlight on us. And the world must understand that we're not going to blink; we're not going to tire. We will do whatever it takes to make the homeland secure and to make freedom reign across the world.

And so my call to Congress is to get the defense appropriations bill to my desk before you go home. For the sake of the national security, for the sake of sending the right messages around the world, we need to get the defense bill complete.

Not only will we pursue Al Qaida one person at a time, not only will we resist terror wherever it lurks, we will also deal with madmen who harbor and develop and want to use weapons of mass destruction.

I made a decision to call upon the international community to join us in holding Saddam Hussein to account. I did so at the United Nations because I want the United Nations to be an effective body. I remember what happened with the League of Nations. For the sake of security, for the sake of peace, the United Nations must not become the League of Nations. The United Nations must have backbone. The United Nations must be willing to uphold resolution. The United Nations must be strong enough to hold Saddam Hussein to account.

After all, he's defied the United Nations for 11 years. He's thumbed his nose at the world. He must be laughing when he hears about the United Nations and its resolutions, and that's not good for the health of the world. He's a man who poisoned his own people. He's a man who invaded two countries twice—two countries, once each time. He's a man who has got weapons of mass destruction, yet lies to the world. He's a man who needs to be brought to justice.

And the choice is his to make, and the choice is the United Nations' to make. He must destroy his weapons of mass destruction. He must stop his deceit. He must stop his lying. He must stop torturing his own citizens. And the United Nations must uphold its resolutions. The choice is theirs. But if they choose not to, for the sake of our future, for the sake of our freedom, we will not let the world's worst leader threaten us, blackmail us, or hurt us with the world's worst weapons.

And I want to thank Members of Congress of both political parties for coming together to send a strong message to the world that this nation loves freedom—members of both parties coming together to send a clear word to friend and foe alike that the United States is united in our resolve to defend that which we hold dear, that when we see a problem, we will deal with it. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our children's children to defend freedom, to free people from the clutches of barbarism. We owe it to civilization, itself, to remain strong and focused and diligent.

And as we work to make America a stronger and safer place, we've also got to remember to make it a better place too, a better place, for all our citizens. Many Senators here joined me in working on an education bill. It was the most constructive piece of education reform in a long time. See, we believe every child in America can learn. We're willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We also trust the local people to chart the path to excellence in our public schools in America.

And for the first time, thanks to Senator Gregg and others, we're starting to ask the question in America, "Can our children read and write and add and subtract?" You see, if you believe every child can learn, it's a legitimate question to ask. And we find our children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change. We will demand—we will demand something else happens. No child in America should be left behind.

For a better America, Congress must remember that those on welfare want to work. Work ought to be the cornerstone of the welfare reauthorization. In work, people find dignity. In work, people find hope for the future. As we debate a welfare reauthorization bill, let us not forget the successes of the past, and let's make sure work is the cornerstone of a responsible tomorrow for every citizen in our country.

A better tomorrow means a modern health care system for all, but particularly for our seniors. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. For the sake of a better tomorrow, we must have a prescription drug benefit and a modern Medicare system.

And finally, a better tomorrow understands that in our faith-based and charitable institutions, we find great compassion and hope and love. Washington, DC, should not fear faith-based programs. We ought to welcome them in the lives of citizens who hurt.

I say a better tomorrow depends upon programs that emanate from our churches and synagogues and mosques as well as charitable organizations, because I understand the true strength of the country. And the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

Right after September the 11th, after we shed our tears and mourned, I was absolutely convinced that out of the evil done to America can come great good. And I still believe it today. I believe that if our country is steadfast and strong, we can achieve peace.

You need to tell your youngsters that behind the rhetoric of war is a strong desire for a peaceful world; that I long for peace, not just for Americans, but because our country values each life, everybody has importance. I long for peace around the world. I believe by being tough and strong and determined, that we can achieve peace in places in the world where people have quit on peace. I firmly believe peace is possible in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia. No, out of the evil done to America can come incredible good if we stay the course and if we remain strong.

And here at home, the evil done to America can yield some great good as well. We must remember there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness in America. The Government can hand out money, and we do a pretty good job of it here in Washington. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

Government can't say to a lonely child, "I love you." That happens when a fellow American chooses to be more than just a citizen—a self-serving citizen. It happens when people understand that the definition of a patriot today in America is somebody who's willing to serve something greater than yourself in life.

That example came home most vividly on Flight 93. It's a story that I hope will remain etched in the minds of our fellow Americans and written in the history books of our country. I think it was a turning point of a culture which used to say, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." These citizens showed the strongest sense of personal responsibility you could possibly imagine. After all, they were on an airplane thinking they were flying across the country. They heard reports about what was taking place on the ground. They told their loved ones goodbye. They told them they loved them. History will record that they said a prayer. They asked for guidance. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than self in life.

It's a vivid example of what America must realize in order to fight evil. In order to fight evil, do some good. Love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Start a Boys or a Girls Club. Be involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Feed the hungry. Find shelter for the homeless.

And that's what's happening in this country. No, the enemy thought that we might file a lawsuit or two. But instead, they found a determined nation, a nation which longs for peace, and a nation which is willing to work to save America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

There is no question in my mind that we will succeed as a country. After all, we're the greatest nation, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most loving, hard-working, decent people.

Thank you all for coming tonight. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:59 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Karyn Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist; entertainer Michael W. Smith, and his wife, Debbie; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 26, 2002

Good morning. We've just concluded a really good meeting with both Democrats and Republicans—Members of the United States Congress—to discuss our national security and discuss how best to keep the peace. The security of our country is the commitment of both political parties and the responsibility of both elected branches of Government.

We are engaged in a deliberate and civil and thorough discussion. We are moving toward a strong resolution. And all of us, and many others in Congress, are united in our determination to confront an urgent threat to America. And by passing this resolution, we'll send a clear message to the world and to the Iraqi regime: The demands of the U.N. Security Council must be followed; the Iraqi dictator must be disarmed. These requirements will be met, or they will be enforced.

The danger to our country is grave. The danger to our country is growing. The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons. The Iraqi regime is building the facilities necessary to make more biological and chemical weapons. And according to the British Government, the Iraqi regime could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the order were given.

The regime has longstanding and continuing ties to terrorist organizations, and there are Al Qaida terrorists inside Iraq. The regime is seeking a nuclear bomb and, with fissile material, could build one within a year. Iraq has already used weapons of mass death against—against other countries and against her own citizens. The Iraqi regime practices the rape of women as a method of intimidation and the torture of dissenters and their children.

For more than a decade, the regime has answered Security Council resolutions with

defiance, bad faith, and deception. We know that the Iraqi regime is led by a dangerous and brutal man. We know he's actively seeking the destructive technologies to match his hatred. We know he must be stopped. The dangers we face will only worsen from month to month and from year to year. To ignore these threats is to encourage them. And when they have fully materialized, it may be too late to protect ourselves and our friends and our allies. By then the Iraqi dictator would have the means to terrorize and dominate the region. Each passing day could be the one on which the Iraqi regime gives anthrax or VX—nerve gas—or, someday, a nuclear weapon to a terrorist ally. We refuse to live in this future of fear. Democrats and Republicans refuse to live in a future of fear. We're determined to build a future of security. All of us long for peace, peace for ourselves, peace for the world.

Members here this morning are committed to American leadership for the good of all nations. I appreciate their spirit. I appreciate their love for country. The resolution we are producing will be an instrument of that leadership. I appreciate the spirit in which Members of Congress are considering this vital issue. Congress will have an important debate, a meaningful debate, an historic debate. It will be conducted with all civility. It will be conducted in a manner that will make Americans proud and Americans to understand the threats to our future. We're making progress. We're near an agreement. And soon, we will speak with one voice.

Thank you all for being here. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at the Corporate Fraud Conference

September 26, 2002

Thanks for the warm welcome. Thank you for being here. This is an important meeting you're having. After all, over the past year, high-profile acts of deception in corporate America have shaken people's trust in corporations, the markets, and in the economy.

A few dishonest individuals have hurt the reputations of many good and honest companies and their executives. They've hurt workers who committed their lives to building a company that hired them. They've hurt investors and retirees who placed their faith in the promise of growth and integrity. For the sake of our free market, corporate criminals must pay a price.

Today I want to thank all of you, U.S. attorneys, senior prosecutors, FBI special agents, senior Treasury and IRS officials, and many others. I want to thank you for your efforts. And I want to thank you for the progress which is being made. Your mandate is to root out crime from corporate America's boardrooms and executive suites. Your mission is to protect the rights and interests of American workers and investors. And your work is essential to our Nation.

I particularly want to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft, who is doing an excellent job as our Attorney General. I also want to thank Elaine Chao, the Secretary of Labor, for her hard work.

I appreciate Harvey Pitt, who's the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. He's doing a fine job, as is Michael Powell, the Chairman of the FCC, Jim Newsome, the Chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Company—Commission.

Larry Thompson is in charge of the President's task force to root out corporate fraud as the Deputy Attorney General. Michael Chertoff, the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, Jim Comey, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, and Debra Yang, U.S. Attorney, Central District of California—I want to thank them for being up here on the stage with me. I want to thank them for their fabulous leadership and doing what's right for America.

Since the exposure of recent corporate scandals, we have taken a series of strong measures. The American people need to know we're acting. We're moving, and we're moving fast. The Securities and Exchange Commission has hired 50 new personnel to support their efforts to ensure that business in America is open and honest—and to confront it when it's not.

More help is on the way. I've signed the most far-reaching reform of American business practices since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt. With this law, we're making sure that the numbers are honest and the numbers are understandable. We're making sure the auditors are audited and the accountants are held to account.

And one of the most aggressive steps we've taken has been to create the new Corporate Fraud Task Force, headed by Larry, to investigate and prosecute financial crimes, to recover the proceeds of those crimes, and hold corporate criminals to account. This task force includes members of the Justice Department and the FBI, U.S. attorneys from around the country. It includes the SEC and the Treasury and Labor Departments, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This broad effort is sending a clear warning and a clear message to every dishonest corporate leader: You will be exposed, and you will be punished. No boardroom in America is above or beyond the law.

I set this mandate, and today I want to give a report to the American people on the progress, the great progress which you all are making. Our law enforcement agencies are after them—they're after them. Since the task force was formed just 2½ months ago, the Department of Justice has opened more than 100 investigations into suspected corporate fraud. In 2½ months, 100 cases have been opened. Charges have been filed against more than 150 defendants. In 2½ months, 150 people have been charged, and more than 45 defendants have been convicted or intend to plead guilty. In 2½ months, 45 people have been brought to justice.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also acting. In the past year, the SEC has filed a record 156 actions for financial fraud and disclosure violations, a 51-percent increase over fiscal year 2000. During the same period, the SEC has sought to throw 107 unfit officers and directors out of corporate boardrooms, almost 3 times the number that the SEC sought to bar in fiscal 2000.

The SEC is aggressively using its enforcement powers to make corporate wrongdoers financially accountable for their actions. This fiscal year, the SEC has sought to recover compensation, bonuses, stock options from 25 corporate officers who betrayed the public trust, an almost 40-percent increase over last year.

By all these actions, we are making broad and dramatic progress against corporate fraud in America. We're defending our free enterprise system against corruption and crime. And we're beginning a new era of corporate integrity. Corporate responsibility is essential to America. It's essential to shareholders. It is essential to investors.

It matters greatly to employees. In February, I proposed important pension reforms. We must give our workers better access to investment advice, so they can manage their money wisely. And right now, too many workers are locked into plans that force them to hold a large portion of their accounts in the company's stock. Workers ought to be able to diversify after 3 years in the company's plan.

The House quickly passed these reforms. They moved swiftly. The Senate hasn't, and they need to act as well. It's good for American workers. It's good for job creation. It would be good for our economy.

Underlying everything we have done so far and all the actions we will take in the future is a basic conviction: The American economy depends on fairness and honesty. It's not a jungle in which only the unscrupulous survive or a financial free-for-all guided only by greed. That's not the America we know.

The fundamentals of a free market, buying and selling, saving and investing, require clear rules and confidence and fairness. The vast majority of American business men and women obey the law and uphold the rules. The vast majority of our fellow citizens care deeply about employees and shareholders. They bring great credit to the system. And those who break the rules and betray the confidence of their employees and shareholders will be punished. Government cannot and should not try to remove risk from investment. But we will help ensure that the risks are honest and the risks are clearly understood.

We will hold corporate criminals accountable for their misdeeds, and we will deter corporate crimes by enforcing tough penalties. By doing this work so well, you are serving the American people. You are serving the American people with distinction. You are leaving a legacy of responsibility behind. You are making the country a better place. And for that I'm grateful, and so are the American people.

May God bless you all. May God bless your families. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. in the Jefferson and Lincoln Ballrooms at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John Cornyn in Houston, Texas

September 26, 2002

The President. Thank you for coming. Thanks for being here. Thank you all. I am here because there's no doubt in my mind that John Cornyn needs to be the next United States Senator from Texas. And I want to thank you all for—thank you all for coming to help him get there. It's important for Texas that he be elected. It's important for America that he be elected. He's the best man with whom I can work. He's a man who can help us get some things done to make America a safer and stronger and better place for all of us.

It's an honor to be back home.

Audience member. Welcome home.

The President. Thank you. I might have changed addresses, but I haven't changed homes. [*Laughter*] And I'm so grateful you all came out. Actually, as we get closer to the election, I'm not only working on ways to strengthen the economy, also working on ways to keep our country peaceful; I'm getting on the road. And it's nice to be in a State where I can actually vote for the candidate I'm campaigning for. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate John a lot. I appreciate his willingness to run for Federal office. I appreciate his willingness to serve in Washington, DC, to take his great family—to take Sandy and his two daughters to live in our Nation's Capital. It's a sacrifice to leave Texas. [*Laughter*] But it's important that he win. And I'm so proud of John. I'm proud of his character, proud of his dignity.

I really appreciate Sandy. She's a fabulous wife and a great—will be a great Senator's wife. As she stands strong by John's side, I'd like to remind people that both he and I married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] Speaking about the First Lady, she is—she's in Mexico today representing our country. We will meet in Crawford tomorrow night—Crawford, Texas, that is. [*Laughter*] She is a remarkable person. She's—I know there's some Midlanders here—she was born and raised in Midland. She was a public school librarian when I met her. The truth of the matter was—is that she wasn't that interested in politics—[*laughter*]—or politicians. [*Laughter*] And now she's stuck with the President of the United States, and she's doing a fabulous job as the First Lady.

I want to appreciate all the grassroot activists who are here. Of course, I know many of you because I asked for your help in '94 and '98. And another guy named Bush has been asking for your help a lot longer before that, and many of you provided it. And I want to thank you all for what you're going to do on behalf of John and Rick Perry and the rest of the candidates running, and that is to turn out the vote.

It's essential that you continue to man the phones and put up the signs and energize the precincts like I know you can do, here in Harris County and in other counties. I know we've got some folks from Jefferson County here and Midland County. I know there's some folks from Travis County. I really urge you to continue to energize the people. This is an important election, and so when you go to your churches or your synagogues or your community centers, talk it up. Remind people they have a duty to go to the polls. And as you get them going to the polls, remind them that the best man running for the United States Senate is John Cornyn.

We will face some challenges together in Washington. Of course, one of the biggest challenges is to make sure that our people can find work. My attitude is, anytime somebody who wants to work can't find a job, is we've got a problem in America. And so, we've got to always think about how to grow

our economy. What can we do to create—to encourage the private sector to create more jobs?

See, John and I understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish or the small business can grow to be a big business. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. And we've got to always encourage the entrepreneurial spirit.

I started doing that when I first got up to Washington, by cutting the taxes on the people that work. We took a page out of this textbook: It says that if you've got an economic slowdown and you let people keep more of their own money, they're going to demand a good or a service. With more money in their pocket, they're more likely to demand something additional. And when they do, somebody is going to produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax cuts came at exactly the right time. They were important. But the problem is that because of Senate rules, they go away. Now, that's a tough one to explain when you get outside of Washington, I readily concede. On the one hand, we giveth; on the other hand, we taketh away. [*Laughter*] That's Washington.

I need somebody in the Senate who understands the importance of tax cuts. I need somebody in the Senate who understands we need to repeal the death tax for the sake of our farmers and ranchers and small-business owners. And that somebody is John Cornyn. Make no mistake about it, the candidate in this race who will support making the tax cuts permanent is John Cornyn. And that's important for economic vitality and economic growth.

I want somebody up there with whom I can work to get an energy bill. We need an energy plan for America. We need a plan that not only gets people back to work but a plan that lessens our dependence upon foreign sources of crude oil. We import over—we import easily over half of our energy, of our crude oil. And unfortunately, sometimes we get it from places that don't care for us. [*Laughter*] And so, for the sake of national security and for the sake of job security, we need an energy bill. And I want a Senator with whom I can work to get a good energy bill, on behalf of Texas and on behalf of America. And that man is John Cornyn.

A stronger America is an America that constantly works to increase the job base. We need a terrorism insurance bill in Washington, DC. There's a lot of hardhats, good, hard-working people who aren't working because big projects can't get going because they can't get insurance.

The enemy hurt us when they hit us. They hurt our economy. And one of the ways they hurt us is, we can't insure big projects. And the Congress ought to step in. It's a useful role for the Congress. But we need an insurance bill—a terrorism insurance bill that rewards the hardhats and not the trial lawyers. We need a good terrorism insurance bill. And I can assure you—I can assure you, I know this man's record. I can assure you, John Cornyn cares more about hard-working people. He cares more about the hardhats than the trial lawyers in America.

We need people up there who understand that if Congress overspends, it will serve as an anchor to economic vitality and growth. It's dangerous up in Washington when it comes to your money. Every idea is a good idea. Every idea they float up there sounds like a good idea. The problem is, in Washington the price tags run into the billions. They don't have a budget out of the United States Senate. You can imagine what will happen without a budget if there's no fiscal discipline, if I don't enforce the fiscal discipline, and if others in the Senate aren't willing to stand up and enforce fiscal discipline.

They can't get a budget. The House has got a budget, but the Senate was unable to get a budget in the expenditure of your money, which creates a problem. I need to have United States Senators who are willing to work with us to fund priorities but to not overspend, Senators who understand the money we spend up there is not the Government's money. The money we spend in Washington is the people's money. And that Senator is John Cornyn.

A stronger America is one which constantly works to expand the job base so people can find work. And I will continue to do that.

A stronger America is also one that's got a good bench, a good Federal bench. There was an interesting moment in this campaign. I nominated a fabulous woman, first-rate woman, named Priscilla Owen—top law student out of Baylor; been elected statewide in Texas a couple of times, overwhelmingly once; had the highest ranking of the ABA, the best rating you could possibly get. I knew she'd be a great judge. Good, solid Texas woman, somebody—it would be good to have that attitude and her point of view on the bench. So I sent her nomination up there. It became political. They distorted her record. They didn't give her a fair chance. Shamefully, the Senate turned down her nomination. In so doing, that was not only bad for Texas; it was bad for America, as far as I'm concerned.

It's important for the voters of this State to listen to what was said by the two candidates running for the United States Senate about Priscilla Owen. There's only one candidate in this race that stood up strongly with me and strongly supported the ratification of her nomination, and that candidate was John Cornyn.

We also have got to work to make America a safer place. I say that because there is an enemy which still hates America, lurking. It is an enemy which is different from other kinds of enemies we have taken on. See, this enemy—you can't measure the enemy's strength based upon the number of tanks he has or the number of aircraft or the number of ship. This is an enemy that hides in dark corners of cities around the world. This is an enemy which hides in caves and sends youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of people we fight.

They hate us because we love things. We love freedom, for starters. We love the fact that we can worship freely in America. We love that, and we're never going to relinquish that freedom. We love the fact that we can have honest political discourse, there can be debate, that people can choose who they want to be the United States Senator. We love a free press in America. We love freedom. They hate freedom. So long as we love freedom, they hate us, and they want to hurt us. That's just the facts of life, as we head into the 21st century.

The other thing that distinguishes—there's a lot of things that distinguishes, but one of the things clearly that distinguishes us, in America we value each life. Life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody has got worth. That's not the way they think. They have hijacked a great religion, and they murder innocent lives in the name of a great religion.

And so we've got to be aware of the facts and reality. I certainly am. My number one job and the number one job of future Senators and future Congresses is to protect the American people, to guard the homeland, to do everything we can to make sure that you're safe.

And we're making progress. I mean, we're talking better now in Washington, DC. The FBI and the CIA share information. Anytime we get a lead, a hint, we're moving on it. We're awake to the realities of the 21st century. No longer are we protected by two vast oceans. And there's a lot of good people at the State level and the local level, great firefighters and policemen and EMS teams all prepared, and wonderful people at the Federal Government—at the level of the Federal Government that are working hard to fulfill our number one priority, which is to protect you.

So I went to Congress, and I asked them—I said, "Look, if the number one priority is the defense of our homeland, let's have an organization so that the number one priority becomes reality to the different—hundreds of agencies involved with the protection of America. Let's organize, in a way." Listen, I didn't run for office, I concede, and say, "Vote for George. I'm going to make the Government bigger." [*Laughter*] That's not my intention. I want it to work on your behalf.

And so I sent up a bill—or an idea, and the House passed a good bill. The Senate is struggling over it right now. The Senate is struggling over it because they want to try to micromanage the process. They want to tell the administrative—the executive branch, this President and future Presidents, who can hire, who can fire, where to move

them. See, that's what they want. They want there to be a lot of rules and regulations, and I'm not going to accept that.

Let me give you some examples. To get a emergency phone number from Customs employees—in other words, it makes sense, if you've got a problem, you want an emergency phone number—union leaders call that an invasion of privacy. See, that's not right. That's a work rule that doesn't make any sense in the new era. It might have made sense before we became subject to enemy attack, but that doesn't make any sense.

Port inspectors refuse to carry radiation detectors. If you're worried about trying to find a potential weapon of mass destruction, you ought to strap on one of those radiation detectors to figure out whether they've got one. This is not a harmful device. The leaders of that group say, "They've got to be voluntary. You can't make a person carry a—one of those detectors." That doesn't make any sense. This is true, what I'm telling you. [*Laughter*]

Customs inspectors cannot be assigned to sensitive jobs unless they're most senior—in other words, that you can only assign people based upon seniority, not based upon talent. That doesn't make any sense. You see, the enemy doesn't care about these rules. The Senate does, and it bothers me. [*Laughter*]

Don't get me wrong, there's fine Senators from both parties who care deeply about our country. Senators from both parties are struggling with this issue. But it is essential for the sake of protecting America that we not allow special interests to drive the process. It is essential to give this President and future Presidents the ability to move people to the right place at the right time to protect America.

I don't think I'd have any problem convincing John of the need to give the President flexibility. As a matter of fact, I know he'd be a strong ally. The best way to protect our homeland, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to protect the homeland.

It's important for you to know the doctrine I laid out still stands: You're either with us, or you're with the enemy. That's clear. I will continue to make that clear. Our coalition is strong. We're still getting a lot of cooperation. Remember, this is a different kind of war. It requires sharing of intelligence and cutting off money and communicating closely and hunting these people down. I mean, they hide in Karachi. We got the other guy the other day who thought he was going to be—wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He popped his head up, and now he's in detention. [*Laughter*] He's no longer a threat to America and our friends and allies. He's no longer around.

It's not a very glamorous war from the sense that the cables and all the air time can cover, but it's happening. We've detained over a couple of thousand people—I want to say over 2,500 are no—are off the streets, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies. I mean, we are hunting them down. And about equal that number weren't as lucky. They're not around at all, because we've got a fabulous military, by the way. We've got some brave soldiers who are—[*applause*].

I submitted a significant increase in defense spending, the largest since Ronald Reagan was the President, because I wanted to send two messages. One, any time this Nation sends our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to the troops and we owe it to their loved ones, as well.

I also wanted to send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States of America is in this deal for the long haul; that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to making sure our children can live in a free and civilized society, when it comes to defending that which we hold true, we're not quitting. We're not quitting. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it takes to find the enemy. The United States will stay with it. We're a determined nation. We're a strong nation. We're a nation that loves freedom.

And that defense budget sent that signal. The problem is, it hasn't made it to my desk yet. [*Laughter*] See, the House passed it, and the Senate passed it. And it hasn't gotten resolved in the conference committee. It's very important, before the Senate and the House go home, that they give me a defense bill.

It's a defense bill that is necessary. It sends a important signal. It shows that we're resolved and serious. They ought to stop playing politics with the defense appropriations bill and get it to my desk.

No, we'll stay with it. I also want to remind you that—that doctrine that says, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed one of them, you're just as guilty as the killers." And I want you also to remind your youngsters about what this Nation did in Afghanistan. Not only did we do what we said we were going to do—which is, I think, important in life—but we sent our troops in not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. We freed a country from the clutches of barbaric tyrants. It's unbelievable how backward and brutal these were, particularly to women.

I had the honor of hosting, in the Roosevelt Room, I believe it was 16 Afghan women who had flown over. And one of the things we promised the Government we would do is we would host training sessions for women to give them a chance to get—be a part of the Government. That's what we want. That's how we—that's what we think is important in life. We believe everybody matters, everybody has got worth, in America. And it was a touching moment to listen to the women and talk to the women and to realize that—and it was a proud moment to realize that our country had a part of freeing them, of giving them a chance to realize their worth and their potential.

You see, we love peace, and we love freedom. We don't say to people in Afghanistan, "You must have our form of Government. You know, the way America does it, you've got to do it." But what we do say is, "We want to free you. We want to give you a chance." And so we're going to stay in Afghanistan. We're going to stay in Afghanistan to hunt down the killers; they still lurk around. They occasionally come in, and we'll find them. They kind of bunch up somewhere, and they're just—they think they're elusive, and they think they're clever, but they've got the mighty United States on them. And we're going to stay on them.

And we've also got some other tasks ahead of us as well. I went to the United Nations the other day to make a case about a true threat to freedom, a true threat to the United States, a threat to Israel, a threat to peace in the region. And that is Iraq.

I made the decision to go to the United Nations because I want the United Nations to be effective. You see, in order to fight the new wars of the 21st century, we need to be able to have collaborative efforts to share intelligence, to share information, to arrest, to haul people in. And an effective United Nations will make it easier to keep the peace, in my judgment.

But the United Nations, in the face of Saddam Hussein, has not been effective. For 11 long years he's defied them. He's wheedled out of agreements. He's deceived. He's lied. The question before the United Nations is, "Will you be the League of Nations, or will you be an effective body to keep the peace." That's my challenge to them.

I also challenged—I also have made it clear that Saddam Hussein must disarm. There's no negotiations. Those ended a long time ago. There's no need for us to try to sit down at a table. There's no discussion to be had. He's got chemical weapons; he needs to get rid of them, all of them. He's got biological weapons; he needs to destroy all of them. There's no doubt in my mind he wants to have a nuclear weapon, and he's got some capacity. I'm not saying he's got one yet, but he's developing the capacity, as we learned right after Desert Storm. He needs to get rid of it. No discussion. No debate. No negotiation. The burden of proof is on Saddam Hussein.

And so now it's up to the United Nations and it's up to Saddam Hussein to determine whether or not there will be peace, to determine whether or not the world's worst leader—and remember, this is a guy who continues to torture his people if they dissent. This is a man who's gassed his own people. This is a man who attacked two countries in the neighborhood. This is a man who used gas on a neighbor. This is a man who continually lies. This is a man who does not know the truth. This is a man who is a threat to peace. It's up to the United Nations and it's up to him to decide their fate. If the United Nations won't act, if he doesn't disarm, the United States will lead a coalition to make sure he does.

I want to thank members of both parties, Republicans and Democrats, for joining to work with us to develop a strong statement of resolve. Today in the Rose Garden, right before I got on Air Force One, I had a public event with Democrats and Republicans, Members of the Congress who have joined with us to send a clear message to the world about America, our strength of purpose, our desire for peace, our unwillingness to accept 11 years of deceit.

This is not a partisan issue, folks. This is an issue that is important for America. This is an American issue, a uniquely American issue. And it's—as I reminded the Members, that—I say uniquely American issue because I truly believe that now that the war has changed, now that we're a battlefield, this man poses a much graver threat than anybody could have possibly imagined. Other countries, of course, bear the same risk, but there's no doubt his hatred is mainly directed at us. There's no doubt he can't stand us. After all, this is a guy that tried to kill my dad at one time.

I take my responsibility seriously as the Commander in Chief. I want you to know I understand the—how serious it is to commit our troops. But I truly believe that history has called us, and we're going to have to act if he doesn't do what he's expected to do. And when we do, we'll be swift and strong. If we have to, we'll win. And the world is more likely to be at peace after it happens.

I long for peace. Behind the rhetoric is a deep desire for peace, and I believe it's achievable. But we're going to have to remain strong and determined. We must continue to speak clearly about good and evil. We must be resolved in our determination to defend freedom and to free people around the world. And there's no doubt we can achieve the mission, no doubt in my mind.

As we work to make America a stronger and safer place, we have always got to remember to make it a better place, too. And that's really important. I know John shares my passion for education. We passed a good education bill in Washington. I want to share with you, right quick, what it says. It says, "Every child can learn."

I don't know if you remember, in the campaign I said, "I promise to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations." I know that when you lower standards, that people suffer, and generally when you lower standards, they're lowered for inner-city kids or kids whose parents don't speak English as a first language. We believe in high standards, and we raised the bar. We trust local folks to manage the path to excellence.

But for the first time, the Federal Government says, "When you receive Federal money, you show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. If you receive a dime of Federal money, we expect you to perform. Every child can learn, and no child will be left behind in America."

A better America is one that has got a health care system that is responsive to the people. John's got a strong record of holding HMOs accountable for bad decisions they make, and I appreciate that record, John.

We need a prescription drug plan for seniors. Listen, Medicare is an incredibly important program. It is old. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. And we need to change Medicare with medicine, so seniors get the kind of coverage they need and deserve. And I look forward to working with John on that.

And I'll tell you, one other thing we need to do in Washington; you see, health care needs to be accessible and affordable. Lawsuits are driving docs out of business. Lawsuits are driving up the cost of medicine. We need Federal medical liability insurance. There's no doubt in my mind of the two candidates in this race, John will work with us on these issues—no doubt. And as we work on these issues, I believe America will be a better place for it.

You know, the enemy hit us. I can't imagine what was going through their mind. They probably thought America was so selfish and materialistic and self-absorbed that after 9/11/2001, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand us, do they? This Nation is a strong nation. It's a fabulous nation. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. You mark my words. If we remain strong and tough in our war against terror, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for America; we can achieve peace in

the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia. If we remain strong and principled and determined, we can have a peaceful world, and I believe it's going to happen.

And at home, if we unleash the true strength of the country, we'll have a better America. You see, we've got to understand that in America there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness and addiction. There are people who hurt. There are people that when you say "the American Dream," they say, "I have no idea what you're talking about." But that can change, because the true strength of America is the people of America. The true strength of America is the fact that our country is full of loving and caring and decent people who have heard a new call.

See, I think there is a new culture evolving—one from, if—it says, "If it feels good, do it, and, you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture that says, "Each of us are responsible for decisions we make in life." That means if you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart. That's your most important responsibility. It means if you're living in a community in Texas, you're responsible for the quality of life, and you're responsible for loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It says, if you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible to tell the truth to your shareholders and employees.

As a result of this change of attitude, as a result of that, people now understand that patriot is more than somebody who just puts his hand over his heart; a patriot is somebody who cares for somebody who hurts. America is changing. The enemy hit us, but out of the evil will come some incredible good—a more compassionate society.

My call to our fellow Americans is to understand the limitations of Government. Listen, Government can hand out money. We can do that, and we do a pretty good job of it sometimes. But what we can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government is not capable of saying, "I love you," to a child who hurts, or "What can I do," to somebody who is shut in. That will happen when our fellow citizens recognize we can change America for the better, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us, and it's been tough on America. But out of the evil is going to come a peaceful world and a more compassionate society, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:36 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency. In his remarks, he referred to Sandy Cornyn, wife of candidate John Cornyn; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Use of United States Military Forces in the Cote d'Ivoire

September 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 19, 2002, a mutiny and rebellion took place in the West African country of Cote d'Ivoire that threatened American citizens living there. Fighting erupted between the mutineers and government forces.

On September 24, 2002, a standby evacuation force of U.S. military personnel from the U.S. European Command was pre-positioned in Accra, Ghana, to assist with the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Cote d'Ivoire and with any other contingencies that might emerge. These forces initially included approximately 180 soldiers, fixed-wing aircraft, and equipment.

On September 25, 2002, U.S. forces moved into Cote d'Ivoire to assist French forces with the evacuation of American citizens and third country nationals from Bouake. This included children from the International Christian Academy as well as Peace Corps Volunteers, faculty, and missionaries. United States forces will also assist in the evacuation of other American citizens and third country nationals in Cote d'Ivoire, should their evacuation become necessary.

Although U.S. forces are equipped for combat, this movement was undertaken solely for the purpose of protecting American

citizens and property. United States forces will redeploy as soon as it is determined that this mission is completed.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action in Cote d'Ivoire.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 27.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 22

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. Later, he hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn of the White House.

September 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Trenton, NJ.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robin Jennison as U.S. Representative and Chairman of the Arkansas River Compact Administration (Colorado and Kansas).

The President announced his intention to appoint George Butvilas and Richard Ochsner as members of the National Veteran Business Development Corporation.

September 24

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed H.R. 3917, the Flight 93 National Memorial Act.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a meeting with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and a group of women government officials from Afghanistan who were in Washington, DC, to attend a U.S.-Afghan Women's Council training program.

The President announced his intention to appoint Zoraida Fonalledas as a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

September 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss security issues between North and South Korea and the situation in Iraq. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson and Mark B. McClellan, nominee to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress to discuss energy legislation. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with members of the Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year finalists.

Later in the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Karim Tawfiq Kawar of Jordan, Franciskus van Daele of Belgium, Alpha Oumar Rafiou Barry of Guinea, Essa Bokarr Sey of Gambia, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi of Pakistan, Hugo Guiliani Cury of the Dominican Republic, Noel Fahey of Ireland, and Andras Simonyi of Hungary.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark B. McClellan to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on September 20.

September 26

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then met with the board of directors of the Newspaper Association of America. Later, he participated in a swearing-in ceremony for Lex Frieden as Chairman of the National Council on Disability.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, and in the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Fay on September 6 and continuing.

September 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Denver, CO. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to express appreciation for French assistance in rescuing American students in the Ivory Coast and to discuss the status of a United Nations resolution concerning Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Phoenix, AZ.

The President announced his intention to appoint Alec Poitevint as Federal Commissioner of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact Commission and Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Basin Compact Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Drayton Nabers as Federal Commissioner of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Basin Compact Commission and Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Isidore beginning on September 21 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 24

Alan G. Lance, Sr.,
of Idaho, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of 13 years, vice Frank Quill Nebeker, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney at a lunch for congressional candidate Adam Taff

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut and U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia

Released September 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3287 and H.R. 5207

Released September 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Released September 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing an interagency delegation to North Korea

Fact sheet: Corporate Fraud Conference Sponsored by President's Corporate Fraud Task Force

Released September 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an addendum to the press gaggle by Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Announcement: White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 24

H.R. 3287 / Public Law 107–225
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 900 Brentwood Road, NE, in Washington, D.C., as the "Joseph Curseen, Jr. and Thomas Morris, Jr. Processing and Distribution Center"

H.R. 3917 / Public Law 107–226
Flight 93 National Memorial Act

H.R. 5207 / Public Law 107–227
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 West Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington, Minnesota, as the "Thomas E. Burnett, Jr. Post Office Building"

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, $300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

**********ALL FOR STATE MI

A PD COLVI346B DEC 03 R
BONNIE COLVIN
C/O BELL & HOWELL
PO BOX 1346
ANN ARBOR MI 48106